A Dictionary of Slang and Colloquial English

Abridged from the seven-volume work, entitled

Slang and its Analogues

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A LIST

OF

THE MORE IMPORTANT DICTIONARIES

AND OTHER WORKS TO WHICH REFERENCE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT IS MADE

⁂ *The figures in brackets, thus* [1585], *which occur in the text may be taken as indicating, in most cases, the date of the earliest illustrative quotation given in the larger work,* 'Slang and its Analogues.'

1440. Galfridus Grammaticus	Promptorium Parvulorum sive clericorum. The first English-Latin Dictionary.
1530. Palsgrave, John	L'Esclarcissement de la Langue Francaise.
1552. Huloet, Richard	Abecedarium Anglico-Latinum pro Tyrunculis
1553. Withals, John	A Little Dictionarie for Children (Latin and English).
1567. Harman, Thomas	Caveat or Warening for Common Cursetors vulgarly called Vagabones. The earliest Glossary of the language of "the Canting Crew."
1570. Levins (*or* Levens), Peter	Manipulus Vocabulorum.
1575. Awdeley, John	Vacabondes, the Fraternatye of, as well as of ruflyng Vacabones, as of beggerly, of Women as of Men, of Gyrles as of Boyes, with their proper Names and Qualities, with a Description of the Crafty Company of Cousoners and Shifters, also the XXV. Orders of Knaves; otherwyse called a Quartern of Knaves, confirmed by Cooke Lorell.

1586.	**WITHALS, JOHN**	A Shorte Dictionarie in Latine and English.
1593.	**HOLLYBAND, CLAUDIUS**	Dictionarie, French and English.
1595.	**FLORIO, JOHN**	A Worlde of Wordes; a most copious Dictionarie of the Italian and English Tongues.
1599.	**MINSHEU, JOHN**	Dictionarie in Spanish and English (Percivale's ed.).
1611.	**COTGRAVE, RANDLE**	Dictionarie de la langue française.
1616.	**B[ULLOKAR], J[OHN]**	English Expositor of Hard Words.
1617.	**MINSHEU, JOHN**	Guide into the Tongues, English, British or Welsh, Low Dutch, High Dutch, French, Italian, Spanish Portuguese, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.
1656.	**BLOUNT, THOMAS**	Glossographia, or Dictionary interpreting the hard words now used in our refined English language.
1658.	**PHILLIPS, EDWARD**	The New World of English Words, or a General Dictionary containing the interpretations of such hard words as are derived from other languages (Florio's Dictionary revised).
1660.	**HOWELL, JAMES**	Lexicon Tetraglotton, an English-French - Italian - Spanish Dictionary.
1674.	**HEAD, RICHARD**	Canting Academy, with Compleat Canting Glossary.
1677.	**MIEGE, GUY**	A New Dictionary, French and English, with another, English and French.
c. 1696.	**E. B., GENT**	A New Dictionary of the Terms, Ancient and Modern, of the Canting Crew in its several Tribes (the earliest Slang Dictionary, *per se*).
1719.	**SMITH, CAPT.**	Lives of Highwaymen, containing Canting Glossary.
1721.	**BAILEY, NATHAN**	An Universal, Etymological English Dictionary, comprehending the Derivation of the Generality of Words in the English Tongue, either Ancient or Modern.
1724.	**SMITH, CAPT.**	Thieves' Dictionary.
1737.	**BAILEY, NATHAN**	Etymological English Dictionary. *A Collection of Ancient and Modern Cant Words* appears as appendix to Vol. ii.
1754.	**ANON**	The Scoundrel's Dictionary; or, An Explanation of the Cant-words used by Thieves, House-breakers, Street-robbers, and Pick-pockets about Town.
1769.	**FALCONER, WILLIAM**	A Marine Dictionary.

1785.	Grose, Francis	A Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue.
1786.	Tooke, John Horne	Diversions of Purley.
1790.	Porter, John	Dictionary of all the Cant and Flash Languages.
1803.		*Gradus ad Cantabrigiam*, or a Dictionary of the Terms Academical and Colloquial, or Cant, which are used at the University.
1808.	Jamieson, John	An Etymological Dictionary of the Scottish Language. 2 vols., with supplement, 2 vols.
1812.	Vaux, J. H.	Flash Dictionary.
1812.	Anon	Bang-up Dictionary, or the Lounger and Sportsman's Vade-mecum.
1822.	Nares, Robert	A Glossary of Words and Phrases, etc., in the Works of English Authors, particularly Shakespeare and his Contemporaries. (New ed., with considerable additions by J. O. Halliwell and Thomas Wright, 1876).
1823.	Bee, George	A Dictionary of the Turf, the Ring, The Chase, the Pit, of Bon Ton and the Varieties of Life, forming the completest Lexicon Balatronicum ever offered to the Sporting World.
1829.	Grimshaw, William	The Ladies' Lexicon and Parlour Companion.
1841.	Dana, R. H., Jun.	Dictionary of Sea Terms.
1846.	Halliwell, James O.	A Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words. 2 vols.
1848.	Bartlett, John R.	Dictionary of American Words and Phrases (ed. of 1877).
1848.	Anon	Sinks of London laid open; a Pocket Companion for the Uninitiated, to which is added a modern Flash Dictionary, containing all the Cant Words, Slang Terms, and Flash Phrases now in Vogue, with a list of the Sixty Orders of Prime Coves.
1857.	Ducange Anglicus	The Vulgar Tongue. Two Glossaries of Slang and Flash Words and Phrases.
1859.	A London Antiquary (John Camden Hotten)	A Dictionary of Modern Slang, Cant, and Vulgar Words afterwards entitled The Slang Dictionary, Etymological, Historical, and Anecdotal (latest ed., 1885).
1859.	[Edited by John Camden Hotten]	Liber Vagatorum: Der Betler Orden, 4to. Translated into English, with Notes, by John Camden Hotten, as the Book of Vagabonds and Beggars, with a

	vocabulary of their Language (*Rotwelsche Sprach*); edited, with preface, by Martin Luther, in the year 1528.
1879–82. Skeat, Rev. W. W.	Etymological Dictionary of the English Language, arranged on an Historical Basis.
1880. Brewer, Rev. E. Cobham	Reader's Handbook of Allusions, References, Plots, and Stories.
1881. Kwong ki Chiu	A Dictionary of English Phrases, with Illustrative Sentences.
1881. Davies, Rev. T. L. O.	A Supplementary English Glossary.
1881. Pascoe, Charles	Every-day Life in our Public Schools. (Contains a Glossary of Public School Slang.)
1884–1904. Murray, James A. H. (with Henry Bradley and A. Craigie)	A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles, Founded mainly on the Materials collected by the Philological Society. In Progress.
1886. Yule, Col. H., & Burnell, Arthur C.	Hobson-Jobson, being a Glossary of Anglo-Indian Colloquial Words and Phrases, Etymological, Historical, Geographical, and Discursive.
1886. Oliphant, W. Kington	The New English.
1887. Barrere, Albert	Argot and Slang.
1888. Farmer, John S.	Americanisms, Old and New.
1889. Barrere, A., and Leland, Charles Godfrey	Slang, Jargon, and Cant.
1900. Farmer, John S.	The Public School Word Book.

Slang and Colloquial English

A. *A per se.* The best; first-class; A1 (q.v.): see Tip-top. The usage became popular and was extended to other vocables. As subs., a paragon (1470). *A1.* (1) Prime; first-class; of the best. The character A denotes New Ships, of Ships Renewed or Restored. The Stores of Vessels are denoted by the figures 1 and 2; 1 signifying that the Vessel is well and sufficiently found (*Key, Lloyd's Register*). Also First-class, letter A; A1 copper-bottomed; and A1 and no mistake: *Fr. marqué à l'A* (money coined in Paris was formerly stamped with an A). Cf. A per se (1369). (2) Sometimes (erroneously) No. 1. A title for the commander of 900 men in the army of the Irish Republican Brotherhood: obsolete Fenian. *Not knowing great A* (or *a B*) *from a bull's-foot* (or *a battledore*), ignorant, illiterate: see B. *What with A, and what with B*: see What. *To get one's A* (Harrow), to pass a certain standard in the gymnasium: the next step is to the Gymnasium Eight. *To get A* (Felsted School), to be (practically) free of all restriction as to bounds: nominally the other bounds were, B, the ordinary limit, the roads about a mile from the school; C, punishment bounds, confinement to the cricket field and playground; and D, confinement to the old school-house playground, one of the commonest forms of punishment till 1876, when the present school-house was opened: C and D were also known respectively as Mongrel and Quod.

Aaron (1) A cadger (q.v.); a beggar mountain-guide. [*Gesenius*: prob. Heb. Aaron is a derivative of Hāron, a mountaineer.] (2) The leader of a gang of thieves; always with 'the' as a prefix. (3) A leader of the church (1607).

A. B. An A[ble]-b[odied] seaman.

Abba. A term of contempt: generic. As subs., a non-unionist: as adj., vile, silly.

Aback. *To take aback,* to surprise, check: suddenly and forcibly. [Orig. nautical: in which sense (*O. E. D.*) dating from 1754.]

Abacter (or **Abactor**). Stealers of Cattle or Beasts, by Herds, or great numbers; and were distinguished from *Fures* (*Blount*).

Abaddon. A thief turned informer; a snitcher (q.v.). [Obviously a Jew fence's punning reference to Abaddon, the angel of the bottomless pit; Rev. ix. 11.]

Abandannad (or **Abandannaad**). (1) A handkerchief (or bandanna) thief. Hence (2) a petty thief. [Brewer: A contraction (*sic*) of a bandanna lad.]

Abandoned Habit. In pl., spec. the riding demi-monde in Rotten Row.

Abber (Harrow). (1) An abstract; (2) an absit (q.v.).

Abbess (or **Lady Abbess**). A bawd; a stewardess of the stews (q.v.): cf. Abbot; Nun; Sacristan; etc. (1770.)

Abbey. *To bring an abbey to a grange,* to squander: also *able to buy an abbey* (*Ray*: we speak it of an unthrift). Among kindred expressions are: To bring a noble to ninepence; to make of a lance a thorn; to make of a pair of breeches a purse; to thwite a mill-post to a pudding-prick; His wind-mill is dwindled into a nutcracker; from abbess to lay-sister.

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Abbey-laird. An insolvent debtor: spec. one sheltered in the sanctuary of Holyrood Abbey. (1709.)

Abbey-lubber (or loon). An idler, vagabond: orig. (prior to the Reformation) a lazy monk or hanger-on to a religious house. Hence *abbey-lubber-like*, lazy, thriftless, ne'er-do-well: see Lubber. (1509.)

Abbot. A bawd's man: ponce (q.v.): see Abbess. Whence *Abbot on the cross* (or *croziered abbot*), the bully (q.v.) of a brothel. *Abbot* (or *Lord*) *of Misrule*, the leader of the Christmas revels. Also (Scots) *Abbot of unreason*, and Fr. *Abbé de Liesse* (Abbot of Joy). (1591.)

Abbotts' Priory. The King's Bench Prison: *Abbott's Park*, the rules thereof (*Grose*, 1823, *Bee*). [Sir Charles Abbott, afterwards Lord Tenterden, was Lord C.-J. of the King's Bench, 1818.]

A B C (The). 1. The A B C (Alphabetical) Railway Guide. 2. (London). An establishment of the Aërated Bread Company: orig. bakers, now refreshment caterers. Hence *A B C girl*, a waitress therein. 3. (Christ's). *A*le, *B*read, and *C*heese on going home night. 4. Generic for beginnings: thus, *like* (or *as easy as*) *A B C*, facile, as simple as learning the alphabet; *down to the A B C*, down to first principles, or the simplest rudiments. (1595.)

Abear. To endure, suffer. [*O.E.D.*: A word of honourable antiquity; widely diffused in the dialects; in London reckoned as a vulgarism. (885 with a gap to *c.* 1836)].

Aberdeen Cutlet. A dried haddock: cf. Billingsgate pheasant.

Abigail. A waiting-woman, lady's maid. [Abigail, a waiting gentlewoman in *The Scornful Lady* (1616) by Beaumont and Fletcher: also see 1 Sam. xxv. 24-31.] Hence *Abigailship* (*Grose*). Cf. Andrew, Acres, etc. (1663.)

Abingdon-law. Summary punishment: cf. Stafford-law; Lydford-law; Scarborough-warning, etc. [In 1645, lord Essex and Waller held Abingdon, in Berks, against Charles I. The town was unsuccessfully attacked by Sir Stephen Hawkins in 1644, and by prince Rupert in 1645. On these occasions the defenders put every Irish prisoner to death without trial.]

Ablewhackets (or **Abelwhackets**). A popular sea game with cards, wherein the loser is beaten over the palms of the hands with a handkerchief tightly twisted like a rope. Very popular with horny-fisted sailors (*Smyth*).

Aboard. A gamester's term for getting even in score.

About. See East, Right, Size.

Above. See Bend, Par, Hooks, Huckleberry, Persimmon.

Abracadabra. (1) A cabalistic word, formerly used as a charm. Hence (2), any word-charm, verbal jingle, gibberish, nonsense, or extravagancy.

Abraham. 1. A cheap clothier's, slop (q.v.), or hand-me-down shop (q.v.). Hence *Abraham work*, ill-paid work, sweated labour (see Abraham-man). 2. Auburn: formerly written *abern* and *abron*: also Abram and Abraham-coloured. (1592.) 3. See Abraham-man.

Abraham Grains. A publican brewing his own beer.

Abraham-man (Abram, Abram-man or Abram-cove). A sturdy beggar (1567): also Bedlam beggar (q.v.) and Tom of Bedlam. These sturdy beggars roamed the country, begging and stealing, down to the period of the Civil Wars.] Hence *To sham* (or *do*) *Abram* (or *to Abraham sham*), to feign madness, sham sick (nautical). Also *Abram*, naked, mad, shamming sick; *Abraham-work*, shams of all kinds, false pretences: whence *to go on the Abraham suit*, to resort to trick or artifice. The mad Tom of *King Lear* is an Abram-man: see Edgar's description, iii. 4.]

Abraham Newland. A bank note. [Abraham Newland was chief cashier to the Bank of England, from 1778 to 1807.] Hence *To sham Abraham*, to forge bank paper.

Abraham's Balm. Hanging: see Ladder.

Abraham's-bosom. Dead and gone to heaven: cf. Luke xvi. 22.

Abraham's eye. A magic charm, the application of which was supposed to deprive a thief, who refused to confess his crime, of eyesight.

Abraham's Willing. A shilling: see Rhino.

Abroad. 1. Wide of the mark, out of one's reckoning, perplexed. *To come abroad* (Winchester), to return to school work after sickness; to be on the sick list is to be continent (q.v.). Also *to be furked abroad*, to be sent back to school after going continent: an implication of shamming.

Abroaded. A noble defaulter on the continent to avoid creditors was said to be abroaded; also police slang for convicts sent to a colonial or penal settlement, but likewise applied by thieves to imprisonment merely.

Abs (Winchester). (1) Absent: placed against the name of a boy when absent from school. Also (2) to take away. Formerly, *circa* 1840, to abs a tolly (candle), meant to put it out; now, to take it away, whether lighted or unlighted: the modern notion (q.v.) for putting it out being to dump it. (3) To get (or put) away; generally in the imperative: e.g. abs! Hence, *to abs quickly*, to stir one's stumps (q.v.), or to put things away with speed. *To have one's wind absed*, to get a breather (q.v.).

Abscotchalater. One in hiding from the police: cf. Absquatulate.

Absence (Eton). Names-calling. (1856.)

Absent. *Absent without leave*, of one who has broken prison, or absconded.

Absentee. A convict.

Absent-minded Beggar. Tommy Atkins (q.v.): popularised by Kipling's verses in aid of the wives and children of soldiers serving in South Africa during the Boer War.

Absit. Every undergraduate wishing to leave Cambridge for a whole day, not including a night, must obtain an absit from his tutor. Permission to go away for a longer period . . . is called an exeat.

Abskize (or **Abschize**). To decamp: see Bunk. [Said to be of Western origin, *circa* 1833.]

Absquatulate (or **Absquotilate**). To decamp, skedaddle (q.v.): see Bunk. (1833.)

Academy. (1) A gang of thieves; (2) a rendezvous for thieves, harlots, or gamesters; and (3) a prison. Hence *Academician*, (1) a thief, and (2) a harlot. Also *buzzing academy*, a training school for pickpockets; *canting-academy*, (1) a common lodging-house, dossing-ken (q.v.), or house of call for beggars, and (2) a likely house for working (q.v.); *floating academy*, the hulks; *character academy*, a resort of servants without characters, which are there concocted; and *gammoning-academy*, a reformatory (*B. E.*, *Grose*, *Bee*, *Matsell.*)

Accident. (1) Seduction; and (2) a bastard: see By-blow.

Accommodate. 1. To equip, supply, provide. [*Jonson*, *Discoveries*: one of the perfumed terms of the time, *Halliwell*: the indefinite use is well ridiculed by Bardolph's vain attempt to define it (2 *H. IV.*, iii. 2. 77): cf. to accommodate with a loan, or with cash for a cheque.] (1597.) 2. To part a bet, or to let a person go halves (that is to accommodate him) in a bet that is likely to come off successful. It is also, in an ironical manner, to *believe* a person when you are well assured he is uttering a lie, by observing you *believe* what he is saying, merely to accommodate him (*Grose*).

Accompany. To cohabit. (1500.)

Account. *To cast up accounts* (*one's gorge*, or *reckoning*). 1. To vomit, cat (or shoot the cat) (q.v.): orig. to cast, thence by punning extension (*Ray*, *Grose*): also to audit one's accounts at the Court of Neptune (1484). 2. To turn King's evidence. *To go on the account*, to join a filibustering or buccaneering expedition, turn pirate. [*Ogilvie*: probably from the parties sharing, as in a commercial venture.] (1812.) *To account for*, to kill, literally to be answerable for bringing down one's share of the shooting; make away with. (1846.) *To give a good account of*, to be successful, do one's duty by: e.g. The stable *gave a good account* of their trainer. (1684.)

Accoutrement. In pl., fine rigging (now) for Men or Women, (formerly) only Trappings for Horses. *Well accoutred*, gentilly dress'd (*B. E.*). [A recognised usage from the middle of the 16th century.]

Accumulative. A sort of journalistic sparring match, codicil (q.v.).

Accumulator. A backer, successful with one horse, carrying forward the stakes to another event.

Ace. The smallest standard of value: also ambs-ace: see Rap, Straw, etc. Hence *To bate an ace*, to make a slight reduction: also bate me an ace, quoth Bolton, a derisive retort; *within an ace* (or *amb's-ace*), nearly, within a shade: see Ames Ace. (1528.)

Ace of Spades. 1. A widow. 2. A black-haired woman.

Ack (Christ's). No! refusal of a request, e.g. Lend me your book. Ack!

Ackman (**Ackpirate** or **Ackruff**). A fresh-water thief or pirate. [Cf. *dialectic Acker*, flood-tide, a bore, and Ark.]

Acknowledge. *To acknowledge the corn*, to confess, make an admission: as to an accusation, failure, etc. (1846.)

Acock-horse (or **Acock**). (1) Triumphant; also (2) defiantly. (1611.)

Acorn. *Horse foaled of an acorn*, the gallows: see Ladder and Nubbing-cheat (*Grose*). (1694.)

Acquisitive. Plunder, booty, pickings.

Acreocracy. The landed interest: cf. Snobocracy, Squattocracy, Mobocracy, Cottonocracy, Slavocracy, etc.

Acres. A coward: see *The Rivals*, v. 13. (1775.)

Acrobat. A glass [i.e. tumbler].

Across. *Across lots*, (1) by the shortest way; (2) completely. (1848.)

Acteon. A cuckold, also as verb: whence *Acteon's badge*, the stigma of cuckoldom (*B. E.*, *Grose*, *Bee*). (1596.)

Acting Dicky. 1. A temporary appointment which may, or may not, be confirmed by the Admiralty; an acting-order. 2. A man acting in the name of an enrolled solicitor.

Active Citizen. A louse: see Chates (*Grose* and *Bee*).

Act of Parliament. Small beer, five pints of which, by an act of Parliament, a landlord was formerly obliged to give gratis to each soldier billeted upon him.

Actual. Money; generic: see Rhino: also *the actual*. (1856.)

Ad (or **Adver**). An advertisement. (1854.)

Adam. 1. A bailiff (*Comedy of Errors*, iv. 3). 2. A master man, foreman: see Adam's Ale and Adam Tiler.

Adamed. Married.

Adam's-ale (**-wine**, or **Adam**). Water. (1643.) English synonyms, aqua pura; aqua pompaginis; fish broth; pure element.

Adam's-apple. The thyroid cartilage: also Adam's-morsel. (1586.)

Adam's-arms. A spade; cf. old saw: When Adam delved and Eve span, Who was then the gentleman? Hence *Adam's profession*, spade work (i.e. gardening). (1602.)

Adam Tiler (or **Adam**). An accomplice. (1696.)

Add. *To add to the list*, to geld, add to the list of geldings in training.

Addition. Colouring matter, or cosmetics used for the face. (1704.)

Addition, Division, and Silence! A Philadelphia catch phrase: properly *multiplication, division, and silence*! a reply given by William (Boss) Tweed when asked the proper qualification for a ring or trust. (1872.)

Addle. *To addle the shoon*, to roll on the back from side to side: of horses. [In the South a horse is then said to earn a gallon of oats.]

Addle-egg. *Addle egg and Idle head*, anything worthless, an abortion. (1589.)

Addle-brain (**-cove**, **-head**, or **-pate**). A stupid bungler, dullard, one full of Whimsies and Projects, and as empty of Wit (*B. E.* and *Grose*). Hence *addle-brained*, etc. (1580.)

Addle-plot. A marplot, spoil-sport, Martin-mar-all (*B. E.* and *Grose*).

Adjective Jerker. A writer for the press; ink-slinger (q.v.).

Adjutant's Gig. The barrack roller: usually drawn by men under punishment.

Admiral. *Admiral of the Blue*, a tapster: from the colour of his apron (*Grose*). (1731.) *Admiral of the Narrow Seas*, a man vomiting into the lap of his neighbour or *vis-à-vis* (*Grose*). *Admiral of the Red*, a sot: see Lushington. *Admiral of the Red, White, and Blue*, a beadle, hall-porter, or similar functionary when sporting the livery of office. *Admiral of the White*, a white-faced person, coward, woman in a faint. *Yellow Admiral*, a rear-admiral retired without service afloat after promotion. [Admirals of the red, the white, or the blue, were grades in naval rank prior to 1864, according to the colour of the ensign displayed: all admirals now fly the white ensign, and they rank as Admiral of the Fleet, Admiral, Vice-Admiral, and Rear-Admiral.] *To tap the Admiral*, (1) to suck the monkey: see quots.; Germ. *Den Affen saugen*. Also (2) to drink on the sly. (1834.)

Admiral's Regiment (The). The Royal Marines; also nicknamed The Little Grenadiers, The Jollies, and The Globe Rangers.

Adonis. 1. A dandy, exquisite. Hence, *to adonize*, to dandify, dress to kill: of men only. (1611.) 2. A wig. (1760.)

Adrift. Loose—I'll turn ye adrift, a Tar phrase; I'll prevent ye doing me any harm (*B. E.*); also (*Grose*) adrift, discharged. Hence, astray, puzzled, distracted. (1690.)

Adsum (Charterhouse). A response in answer to a summons or names-calling. (1821.)

Adullamites. 1. A nickname for seceding Liberals who in 1866 voted Tory because dissatisfied with a Liberal measure for the extension of the Franchise. [See 1 Sam. xxii. 1.] The political party in question were also known collectively as The Cave. Hence (2) Adullamy, ratting (q.v.).

Advantage. 1. A thirteenth: added to a dozen of anything; (2) something in addition: also *vantage*. See Baker's dozen and Lagniappe. (1641.) *To play upon advantage*, to cheat. (1592.)

Ægrotat (Æger). 1. An excuse for absence on account of sickness; (2) a medical or other certificate of indisposition (*Grose*). [*Ægritude*, sickness; *Ægrotat*, an invalid. (1532).] Hence *reading-ægrotant*, leave taken to read for a degree; *æger-room* (Felsted), the sick room. Lat. he is sick.]—*Gradus ad Cantab.*, 1803.

Affidavit-man. A false witness, said to attend Westminster Hall, and other courts of justice, ready to swear anything for hire (*Grose*).

Afflicke. A thief. (1610.)

Afflicted. Drunk: see Screwed (*Ray*).

Afflictions. Mourning goods: e.g. *Afflictions are quiet*, there is little demand for mourning. *Mitigated afflictions*, half mourning.

Affygraphy. *To an affygraphy*, to a nicety, a T. *In an affygraphy*, in a moment, directly.

Afloat. Drunk: see Screwed: also *with back teeth well afloat*.

Afraid. Among colloquial and proverbial sayings are: He that's afraid of grass must not piss in a meadow (Ital. *Chi ha paura d'ogni urtica non pisci in herba*, He that's afraid of every nettle must not piss in the grass); He that's afraid of leaves must not come in a wood (French, *Qui a peur des feuilles ne doit pas aller au bois:* Ital., *Non entri tra rocca e fuso chi non vuol esser filato*); He that's afraid of the wagging of feathers must keep from among wild fowl; He that's afraid of wounds must not come near a battle; He's never likely to have a good thing cheap that's afraid to ask the price; Afraid of far enough (fearful of what is not likely to happen) Afraid of him that died last year (fearful of a shadow); Afraid of the hatchet lest the helve strike him; Afraid of his shadow; More afraid than hurt.

After. *A long way after*, of a sketch, cartoon, or burlesque of a classic picture, book, etc.

After-clap. (1) Anything unexpected (spec. disagreeable), after the conclusion of a matter. Hence (2) a demand made over and above a stipulated price, or for an amount already paid (*Grose*). (14th century.)

After-dinner Man (or Afternoon's-man). A man who drinks long into the afternoon: it was the custom, formerly, to dine in the halls of our Inns of Court about noon, and those who returned after dinner to work must have been much devoted to business, or obliged to work at unusual hours by an excess of it. (1614.)

Afternoon-buyer. One who buys not until after the market dinner, thereby hoping to buy cheaper.

Afternoon-farmer. A laggard; spec. a farmer late in preparing his land, in sowing or harvesting his crops; hence one who loses his opportunities.

Afternoon-tea (Roy. High Sch., Edin.). Detention after three o'clock.

After Twelve. See Twelve.

Against. *Against the grain* (*collar*, or *hair*), contrary to inclination, unpleasant, unwillingly done (*Grose*). (1589.) *To run against*, to meet by accident: e.g. I ran against him the other day in Brighton.

Agaze. Astonished, open-eyed (*Matsell.*) (1400.)

-agger (Charterhouse). As in *Combinaggers*, a combination suit: esp. football attire.

Aggravator (Aggerawator, or Haggerawator). A lock of hair brought down from the forehead, well greased, and twisted in a spiral on the temple, either toward the ear, or conversely toward the outer corner of the eye. Usually in pl., once an aid to beauty: now rare. English synonyms: bell-ropes; beau-catchers; cobbler's-knots; cowlicks; love-locks; Newgate knockers; number sixes; spit-curls. (1836.)

Agitator. 1. In Eng. Hist., an agent, one who acts for others; a name given to the agents or delegates of the private soldiers in the Parliamentary Army, 1647-9; in which use it varied with *Adjutator* (*O. E. D.*). *J. A. H. Murray*: Careful investigation satisfies me that *Agitator* was the actual title, and *Adjutator* originally only a bad spelling of soldiers familiar with Adjutants and the Adjutors of 1641.] 2. A bell-rope, or knocker. *To agitate the communicator*, to ring the bell.

Agogare. Be quick! a warning signal (*New York Slang Dictionary*).

Agony. *To pile up* (or *on*) *the agony*, to exaggerate, use the tallest terms in lieu of the simplest, cry Hell! when all you mean is Goodness gracious!: as a newspaper when writing up murder, divorce, and other sensations. Also *to agonize.* Hence *Agony-piler*, a player in sensational parts: see Agony-column. (1857.)

Agony-column. A special column in newspapers devoted to harrowing advertisements of missing friends and private business: orig. the second column of the *Times.* (1870.)

Agree. *To agree like pickpockets in a fair*, to agree not at all. *Other* similes of the kind are, To agree like bells, they want nothing but hanging; and To agree like cats and dogs (or like harp and harrow).

Agricultural-implement. A spade; call a spade a spade and not an agricultural implement, a direct call to very plain speech.

Aground (*Grose*). Stuck fast; stopped; at a loss; ruined; like a boat or vessel aground. [This accepted figurative use of the nautical phrase was rare prior to the nineteenth century.]

Aiglers (The). The 1st battalion of The Royal Irish Fusiliers, late The 87th Foot. [At Barrosa they captured the Eagle of the 8th French Light Infantry, a fact now commemorated in one of the distinctive badges of the regiment, viz. An Eagle with the figure 8 below.]

Aim. (*B. E.*) Endeavour or Design . . . he has missed his Aim or end.'

Ain't (Hain't or An't). That is, are not, am not, is not, have not, [*O. E. D.*, in the popular dialect of London, Cockney speech in Dickens, etc.] See A'nt. (1701.)

Air. *Castles in the air* (*the skies, in Spain*, etc.), generic for (1) the impossible, (2) imagination, and (3) hope: see *infra. To build castles*, (1) to attempt the impossible; (2) to dream of visionary projects, indulge in idle dreams; and (3) to be sanguine of success. Hence *in the air*, (1) uncertain, in doubt, and (2) anticipated (in men's minds) as likely; *air-built*, chimerical; *air-castle*, the land of dreams and fancies; *air-monger*, a dreamer: see Spain. Analogous phrases [avowedly generic, and inserted in this place because as convenient as any other: the senses, too, must obviously sometimes overlap]. 1. (*the impossible*), to square the circle, wash a blackamore white, skin a flint, make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, make bricks without straw, weave a rope of sand, extract sunbeams from cucumbers, set the Thames on fire, milk a he-goat into a sieve, catch a weasel asleep, be in two places at once, plough the air, wash the Ethiopian, measure a twig, demand a tribute of the dead, teach a pig to play on a flute, catch the wind in a net, change a fly into an elephant, take the spring from the year, put a rope in the eye of a needle, draw water with a sieve, number the waves; also (French) *prendre la lune avec les dents; rompre l'arguille auge nou.* 2. (*imagination*), to have maggots, or whimseys; to see an air-drawn dagger, the flying Dutchman, the great sea-serpent, the man in the moon; to dream of Utopia, Atlantis, the happy valley, the isles of the West, the millennium, of fairyland, the land of Prester John, the kingdom of Micomicon; to set one's wits to work, strain (or crack) one's invention, rack (ransack, or cudgel) one's brains. 3. (*hope*), to seek the pot of gold (Fr. *pot au lait*), dream of Alnaschar, live in a fool's paradise; see a bit of blue sky, the silver lining in the cloud, the bottom of Pandora's box, catch at a straw, hope against hope, reckon one's chickens before they are hatched. *Air of a face or Picture* (*B. E.*, 1696), the Configuration and Consent of Parts in each. For this 18th century quots. are given in *O. E. D.*] *To air one's vocabulary*, to talk for phrasing's sake, flash the gab (q.v.). [One of the wits of the time of George IV., asked what was going on in the House of Commons, answered that Lord Castlereagh was airing his vocabulary.] *To air one's heels*, to loiter, hang about: see Cool and Heels.

Air-and-exercise. (1) A whipping at the cart's tail; shoving the tumbler (q.v.). Also (2) the revolving pillory; and (3), penal servitude (in America, a short term of imprisonment) (*Grose*).

Airing. See Out.

Air-line. See Bee-line.

Airy (*B. E.*), Light, brisk, pleasant. . . . He is an Airy Fellow.

Ajax (or **Jakes**). A privy; a Jakes (q.v.): Sir John Harrington, in 1596, published his celebrated tract, called The metamorphosis of Ajax, by which he meant the improvement of a jakes, or necessary, by forming it into what we now call a water-closet, of which Sir John was clearly the inventor. Also a term of abuse (1551.)

Akerman's Hotel. Newgate prison. [The governor's name was Akerman, c. 1787.]

Akeybo (*Hotten*). A slang phrase used in the following manner:—He beats *akeybo*, and *akeybo* beat the devil.

A-la-Mort. See Amort.

Albany Beef. The flesh of the sturgeon. [Some parts of the fish have a resemblance, in colour, and taste, to beef: caught in large numbers as far up the Hudson River as Albany.]

Albertopolis. The Kensington Gore district: out of compliment to the late Prince Consort, who was closely identified with the Albert Hall and the Exhibition buildings of 1862.

Albonized. Whitened [L. *albus*].

Alderman. 1. A half-crown, 2s. 6d.: see Rhino. 2. A long clay pipe; a churchwarden (q.v.). 3. A roasted turkey garnished with sausages; the latter are supposed to represent the gold chain worn by these magistrates. 4. A jemmy (q.v.): sometimes *alderman jemmy*: a weightier tool is the Lord Mayor (q.v.). 5. (Felsted). A qualified swimmer. [The Alders, a deep pool in the Chelmer: see *Farmer, Public School Word Book.*] *Blood and guts alderman*: see Blood and guts.

Alderman Lushington. *Alderman Lushington is concerned* (or *he has been voting for the Alderman*), drunk.

Alderman's Pace. A leisurely walking, slow gate (*Cotgrave*).

Aldgate. *Draught on the pump at Aldgate*, a worthless bill of exchange (*Grose*).

Ale. (1) A merry-making; and occasion for drinking. There were bride-ales, church-ales, clerk-ales, give-ales, lamb-ales, leet-ales, Midsummer-ales, Scot-ales, Whitsun-ales, and several more. (2) An ale-house. Hence *alecie* (or *alecy*), drunkenness; *ale-blown* (*ale-washed* or *alecied*), drunk; *ale-draper* (whence *ale-drapery*), an inn-keeper (*Grose*: cf. *ale-yard*); *ale-spinner*, a brewer; *ale-knight* (*ale-stake*, or *ale-toast*), a tippler, pot-companion; *ale-post*, a maypole (*Grose*); *ale-passion*, a headache; *ale-pock*, an ulcered grog-blossom (q.v.); *ale-crummed*, grogshot in the face; *ale-swilling*, tippling, etc. (1362). (3) In pl., Messrs S. Allsopp and Sons Limited Shares. See Adam's Ale.

Alexander. 1. To hang. [*Rogers*: From the harsh and merciless manner in which Sir Jerome Alexander, an Irish judge (1660-1674) and founder of the Alexander Library at Trinity College, Dublin, carried out the duties of his office.] 2. To extol as an Alexander the Great. (1700.)

Alexandra Limp. An affected lameness; cf. Grecian bend and Roman fall.

Alfred David. An affidavit: also *affidavy*, *davy*, and (occasionally) *afterdavy*.

Algerine. (1) A manager-baiter, espec. when the ghost (q.v.) will not walk (q.v.). Also (2) a petty borrower.

Alive. Alive occurs as an intensive and expletive: e.g. *alive and kicking*, very sprightly, all there (q.v.); also *all alive; man* (*heart*, or *sakes*) *alive*! (an emphatic address); *to look alive*, to make haste; *all alive*, slovenly made (of garments).

All. In pl., belongings: spec. tools: also *awls*: see Bens. Hence *to pack up one's alls*; (1) to begone, to desist; (2) see *All-nations*. *The five alls*, a country sign, representing five human figures, each having a motto under him —the first is a king in his regalia; his motto, I govern *all*: the second, a bishop in pontificals; motto, I pray for *all*: third, a lawyer in his gown; motto, I plead for *all*: fourth, a soldier in his regimentals, fully accoutred; motto, I fight for *all*: fifth, a poor countryman with his scythe and rake; motto, I pay for *all* (*Grose*). *At all!* The cry of a gamester full of cash and spirit, meaning that he will play for any sums the company may choose to risk against him (*Halliwell*). *All's quiet on the Potomac*, a period of rest, enjoyment, peace. [The phrase dates from the Civil War; its frequent repetition in the bulletins of the War Secretary made it ridiculous to the public.] Phrases and colloquialisms. *All about in one's head*, light-headed; *all about it*, the whole of the matter; *all-around*, thorough, all *round* (q.v.); *all at sea*, uncertain, vague; *all face*, naked; *on all fours*, fairly, equally, exactly; *all holiday at Peckham*, hungry, done for; *all in* (Stock Exchange), slow, flat (q.v.): of a market when there is a disposition to sell; whence, *all out*, improving; *all over*, thoroughly, entirely, exactly; *all round my hat*, queer, all-overish (q.v.): *That's all round my hat*, Bosh! *spicy as all round my hat*, sensational; *all serene*, all's well, O.K. You know what I'm after; *all up with*, finished, done for; *all T.H.*, of the best, very good indeed (tailors'), all there (q.v.). See also Alive; All-nations; Along; Beat; Betty Martin; Blue; Bandy; Caboose; Cheek; Dickey; Fly; Gammon; Gay; Go; Heap; Hollow; Hough; Jaw; Lombard-street; Mops-and-brooms; Mouth; Out; Pieces; Sheep; Shop; Shoot; Skittles; Smash; Smoke; There; Up; Way; Way-down.

Allacompain. Rain: also *alacompain*, *alicumpane*, *elecampain*: cf. France and Spain.

All- (or I'm-) afloat. A coat.

All-bones. A thin bony person. (1602.)

Alleviator. A drink, refreshment: see Go.

Alley (Ally or Alay). A superior kind of marble. [Alabaster, of which they are sometimes made.] Also Ally-tor (or taw): cf. stoney (q.v.) blood-alley, and commoney (q.v.). (1720.) *The Alley*, Change Alley: cf. House, Lane, Street, etc. (1720.)

All-fired. A general intensive: e.g. *all-fired* (violent) *abuse*; an *all-fired* (tremendous) *noise*; an *all-fired* (very great) *hurry*, etc. Also as adv. unusually, excessively.

All-get-out. *That beats all-get-out*, a retort to any extravagant story of assertion.

All-harbour-light. All right.

Allicholly. Melancholy, solemncholly (q.v.). (1595.)

All Nations. 1. The tap-droppings of spirts and malt liquors: also alls, or all sorts (*Grose*). 2. A parti-coloured or patched garment; a Joseph's coat.

All-night-man. A body-snatcher; a resurrectionist (q.v.).

Allot. *To allot upon*, to count upon, reckon (q.v.), calculate (q.v.). (1816.)

All-out. A bumper, carouse. Hence *to drink all out*, to drain a bumper. (1530.)

All-overish. An indefinite feeling of apprehension or satisfaction. Also *to feel all over alike, and touch nowhere*, to feel confusedly happy. Also as subs. (1841.)

All-over-pattern. A term used to denote a design in which the whole of a field is covered with ornament in contradistinction to such as have units only at intervals, leaving spaces of the ground between them.

Allow (Harrow). A boy's weekly allowance. Also, to admit, declare, intend, think. (1580.)

All-round (Amer. All-around). Generally capable, adaptable, or inclusive; affecting all alike: e.g. *an all-round* (average) *rent*; an *all-round* (thorough) *scamp; an all-round cricketer*, one good alike at batting, bowling, and fielding. Hence *all-rounder*.

All-rounder. 1. A shirt collar; spec. one the same height all round the neck, meeting in front, or (as in clerical collars) at the back. (1857.) 2. See All-round.

Allslops. Allsopp and Sons' ale. [At one time their brew, formerly of the finest quality, had greatly deteriorated.]

All-sorts. See All-nations.

Allspice. A grocer.

All-standing. Fully dressed: hence *to turn in all standing*, to go to bed in one's clothes. Also *brought up all-standing*, taken unawares.

Alma Mater. Originally (and properly) one's University; now applied to any place of training; school, college, or University. (1701.)

Alman-comb. The four fingers and the thumb: see Welsh-comb.

Almighty. An intensive: mighty, great, exceedingly. (1824.)

Almighty-gold (-money, or [American] -dollar). The power or worship of money; Mammon. (1616.)

Almond-for-a-parrot. A trifle to amuse a silly person. (1529.)

Aloft. *To go aloft*, to die: see Hop the twig. (1692.) *To come aloft*, to vault, play tricks: as a tumbler. (1624.)

Along of. On account of, owing to, pertaining to, about: also (formerly) along on. [The *O. E. D.* traces the phrase back to Anglo-Saxon times.]

Along-shore (or Longshore) Boy (or Man). A landsman (*Grose*).

Aloud. An intensive: e.g. *to talk aloud*, to rave; *to think aloud*, to talk; *to walk aloud*, to run; *to stink aloud*, to overpower.

Alphabet. *Through the alphabet*, completely, first to last.

Alsatia. 1. Whitefriars: a district adjoining the Temple, between the Thames and Fleet Street. [Formerly the site of a Carmelite convent (founded 1241) and possessing certain privileges of sanctuary. These were confirmed by a charter of James I. in 1608, whereafter the district speedily became a haunt of rascality in general, a Latinised form of Alsace having been jocularly conferred on it as a debateable land. Abuses, outrage, and riot led to the abolition of its right of sanctuary in 1697. Also Alsatia the higher. Whence *Alsatia the lower*, the liberties of the Mint in Southwark; *Alsatian*, a rogue, debtor, or debauchée; a resident in Alsatia: also, roguish, debauched; *Alsatia phrase*, a canting term (*B. E.* and *Grose*). [See *Fortunes of Nigel*, chaps. xvi. and xvii.]. (1688). 2. Hence any rendezvous or asylum for loose characters or criminals, where immunity from arrest is tolerably certain; a disreputable locality: the term has sometimes been applied (venomously) to the Stock Exchange. *Alsatian*, an adventurer; a Bohemian. (1834.)

Alt. *In alt*, in the clouds; high-flying; dignified. [*Altissimo*, a musical term.] Cf. Altitude. (1748.)

Altemal (or Altumal). Altogether. (1696.) Also as intj., cut it short, stow it (q.v.), stash it (q.v.). [*O. E. D.*: Lat. *altum*, the deep, i.e. the sea and AL. Dutch *altermal*.]

Alter. *To alter the jeff's click*, to make up a garment without regard to the cutter's chalkings or instructions.

Altham. A wife: Old Cant.

Altitude. *In one's altitudes*, generic for high-mindedness. (1) In lofty mood; (2) in high spirits; (3) hoity-toity; and (4) drunk (*B. E.* and *Grose*); see Screwed. (1616.)

Altocad. A paid member of the choir who takes alto (Winchester College).

Altogether. A whole; *a tout-ensemble*. (1677.) *The altogether*, nudity; in the altogether nude: popularised by Du Maurier's novel and play, *Trilby*.

Alybbeg. See Lybbege.

Alycompaine. See Allacompain.

Amazon. 1. A masculine woman; a vigaro. Also (the adjectival preceded the figurative substantive usage) *Amazonian*, manlike, bold, quarrelsome. (1595.) 2. The Queen: chess. (1656.)

Ambassador. A trick to duck some ignorant fellow, or landsman, frequently played on board ship in the warm latitudes. It is thus managed: a large tub is filled with water, and two stools placed on each side of it. Over the whole is thrown a tarpaulin, or old sail, which is kept tight by two persons seated on the stools, who are to represent the king and queen of a foreign country. The person intended to be ducked plays the ambassador, and after repeating a ridiculous speech dictated to him, is led in great form up to the throne, and seated between the king and queen, who rise suddenly as soon as he is seated, and the unfortunate ambassador is of course deluged in the tub (*Grose*).

Ambassador of Commerce. A commercial traveller; bagman (q.v.).

Ambes-ace. See Ames-ace.

Ambia. Chewed-tobacco juice: also the intensely strong nicotine, or thick brown substance which forms in pipes. I have always supposed that it is merely a Southern variation of amber which exactly represents its colour. (*Bartlett*).

Ambidexter (or Ambodexter). (1) A venal juror or lawyer, one taking a fee from both sides. Hence (2) a double-dealer, vicar of Bray (q.v.). Also, deceitful, tricky. (1532.)

Ambree. *Mary Ambree*, generic for a woman of strength and spirit [*Nares*].

Ambrol. *Ambrol*, among the Tars for Admiral (*B. E.*).

Ambush. Fraudulent weights and measures. [A punning allusion: to lie in wait—i.e. lying weight.]

Amen. To finish a matter (as *amen* does a prayer), approve, ratify. *To say Yes and Amen*, to agree to everything (*Grose*); *amener*, a general conformist. (1812.)

Amen-bawler (-curler or -snorter). A parish clerk; also (military) *amen-wallah*: see Black-coat (*Grose*). (1704.)

Amerace. Near at hand, within call.

American Shoulders. A particular cut in the shoulders of a coat: they are padded and shaped to give the wearer a broad and burly appearance.

American Tweezers. An instrument to unlock a door from the outside, nippers (q.v.).

Ames-ace (Ambs-ace, Ambes-ace, etc.). (1) Orig. and lit. the throw of two aces, the lowest cast at dice. Hence (2) misfortune, bad luck, nothing. *Within ames-ace*, nearly, very near (*Grose*): see Ace. (1297.)

Aminadab. A quaker: in contempt (*Grose*). (1709.)

Ammunition. 1. Originally applied to every requisite for soldiers' use, as ammunition bread, shoes, hat, etc.: now only of powder, shot, shell, and the like. Whence colloquialisms such as *ammunition face*, a warlike face; *ammunition wife*, a soldier's trull (*Grose*); *ammunition leg*, a wooden leg, etc. (1658.) 2. Bum-fodder (q.v.). *Mouth-ammunition*, food: cf. Belly-timber. (1694.)

Amoret (or Amorette). (1) Originally a sweetheart: spec. (2) a mistress. [*O. E. D.*: Eng. Amoret having become obsolete, the word has recently been re-adopted from the French; see sense 4.] Whence (3) the concomitants of love: e.g. a love-knot, a love-sonnet, love-books, and (in pl.) love-tricks, dalliances (*Cotgrave*). (1400.) (4) *Amourette*, a love-affair, an intrigue. (1865.)

Ampersand. 1. The posteriors. 2. The sign &; ampersand. Variants: And-pussy-and; Ann Passy Ann; anpasty; andpassy; anparse; apersie (q.v.); per-se; ampassy; ampassy-and; amperse-and; ampus-and; ampussy and; ampazad; amsiam; ampus-end; apperse-and; empersi-and amperzed; and zumzy-zan.

Amputate. To be off, to cut (q.v.) and run, also to amputate one's mahogany (or timber): see Bunk and Timber-merchant.

Amuse. To cheat, beguile, deceive. *O. E. D.* . . . Not in regular use, before 1600. . . . the usual sense in 17th and 18th centuries]: spec. (*B. E.* and *Grose*), to throw dust in one's eyes by diverting one, to fling dust or snuff in the eyes of the person intended to be robbed; also to invent some plausible tale to delude shop-keepers and others, thereby to put them off their guard. Whence *amuser*, a cheat a snuff-throwing thief; one that deceives (*Ash* and *Grose*). (1480.)

Anabaptist. A thief caught in the act and disciplined at the pump or in the horse-pond (*Grose*).

Anchor. To sit down. *To let go an anchor to the windward of the law*, to keep within the letter of the law.

Ancient. See Antient.

Ancient Mariner. A rowing don: *row* as in *bough* (*Oxf. Univ.*).

Andrew. 1. A broadsword; also Andrew Ferrara: cf. Gladstone. [Cosmo, Andrea, and Gianantonio Ferara, three Italian cutlers of Belluno in Venetia.] (1618.) 2. A body-servant, valet: cf. Abigail. (1618.) 3. A ship, whether trading or man-of-war: also Andrew Millar, and (*Grose*) Andrew Miller's lugger. Among Australian smugglers, a revenue cutter. (1591.) See Merry-Andrew.

Angel. A child riding on the shoulders: also Flying-angel. *Angel on horseback*, oysters rolled in bacon, and served on crisp toast, very hot.

Angel Altogether. A toper.

Angelic (or Angelica). A young unmarried woman. (1821.)

Angeliferous. Angelic, super-excellent. (1837.)

Angel's-food. Strong ale. (1597.)

Angel's Footstool. An imaginary square sail, topping the sky-scraper (q.v.), the moon-sail (q.v.), and the cloud-cleaner (q.v.).

Angel's Gear. Female attire.

Angel's Oil. A bribe: also oil of

angels. [Angel, a gold coin, value 6s. 8d., first struck by Ed. IV. in 1465.]

Angel's Suit. A combination garment for men: the trousers were buttoned to coat and waistcoat made in one.

Angel's Whisper. The call to defaulter's drill: usually extra fatigue duty.

Angle. To get by stratagem, fish (q.v.); and (in an absolute sense, see Angler) to cheat, steal. As subs., (1) a lure or wile; (2) a victim: hence a simpleton, one easily imposed on; and (3) a cunning or specious fellow, an adventurer. *To angle one on*, to lure. (1535.) *To angle for farthings*, to beg out of a prison-window, with a cap, or box, let down at the end of a long string. *To angle with a silver hook*, (1) to bribe, and (2) buy one's catch in the market.

Angler. 'Angglers be peryllous and most wicked Knaues . . . they customably carry with them a staffe of v. or vi. foote long, in which within one ynch of the tope thereof, ys a lytle hole . . . in which they putte an yron hoke, and with the same they wyll plucke vnto them quickly anything that they may reche ther with' (*Harman*). *To angle*, to steal; *Angling-cove*, a fence (q.v.) (*B. E.* and *Grose*).

Anglomaniacs. A club in Boston; its members are opposed to everything British.

Angry Boy. See Boy and Roaring-Boy.

Angular Party. A gathering of an odd number of people; three, seven, thirteen, etc.

Animal. 1. A term of contempt; a fool—he is a mere Animal, he is a very silly Fellow (*B. E.*, *c.* 1696). 2. A new cadet at the United States Military Academy, West Point; cf. Snooker. See Whole.

Animule. A mule. A portmanteau-word (q.v.): i.e. animal-mule.]

Ankle. *To sprain one's ankle*, to be got with child (*Grose*): Fr., *avoir mal aux genoux*.

Ankle-beater. A boy-drover: they tended their animals with long wattles, and beat them on the legs to avoid spoiling or bruising the flesh: also penny-boys (q.v.), because they received one penny per head as remuneration.

Ankle-spring Warehouse. The stocks. (1780.)

Ananias. A liar. Hence *Ananias-brand*, an imposture; *Ananias-club*, an imaginary company of liars; *to play Ananias and Sapphira*, to keep back part of the swag (q.v.).

Anna Maria. A fire.

Anne. See Bacon, Sight, and Thumb.

Annex. To steal, convey (q.v.).

Anno Domini Ship. An old-fashioned whaler (*Century*).

Annual. A holiday taken once in twelve months: cf. *annual*, a mass said, rent paid, or a book issued yearly.

Anodyne. Death: also to kill. *Anodyne necklace* (or *collar*), a halter (*Grose*): see Horse-collar, Ladder, and Nubbing-cheat. (1636.)

Anoint. 1. To flatter, butter (q.v.). (1400.) 2. To bribe, grease the palm (q.v.); creesh the loof. (1584.) 3. To beat, thrash soundly; also, anoint with the sap of a hazel rod (North): cf. strap-oil. Whence *anointed*, well drubbed (see next entry). (1500.)

Anointed. Pre-eminent in rascality. But in a French MS. . . . is an account of a man who had received a thorough and severe beating: *Qui anoit este si bien oignt.* The English Version [Early English Text Society] translates this: 'Which so well was anoynted indeed. From this it is clear that to anoint a man was to give him a sound drubbing, and that the word was so used in the fifteenth century. Thus, an anointed rogue means either one who has been well thrashed or who has deserved to be' (*Skeat*).

Anonyma. A fashionable whore (*c.* 1860-60).

Another. *You're another*, *a tu quoque*: i.e. another liar, fool, thief—any imaginable term of abuse: see Nail. (1534.)

Anotherguess (Anothergets, **Anothergaines**, Anothergates, **Anotherguise**, Anotherkins). That is, another sort, kind, manner, fashion, etc. [*O. E. D.*: A phonetic reduction from anothergets (for anothergates).] Hence *anotherguess sort of man* (*woman*, etc.), one up to snuff (q.v.). 1580.)

Another Place. The House of Commons (*Lord Granville*).

Anser. *Anser is Latin for Goose* (*Brandy*, *Candle*, *Fish*, etc.). A punning catch or retort. (1612.)

Anshum-scranchum. A scramble: e.g. when provision is scanty, and each one is almost obliged to scramble for what he can get, it is said to be *anshum-scranchum* work (*Halliwell*).

An't (Aint). A contraction for are not; am not; is not; has not; have not (han't): chiefly Cockney; cf. shan't, won't, can't: see Ain't. Also, and may it. (1612.)

Ant. *In an ant's foot*, in a short time.

Antagonize. To oppose a ball, bill, measure, etc. [Properly, only of contention or opposition between forces or things of the *same* kind.]

Antarctic. To go to the opposite extreme: cf. lord, tree, etc. (1647.)

Antechamber. (*B. E.*, c. 1696.) Forerooms for receiving of Visits, as the back and Drawing-rooms are for Lodgings, anciently called Dining-rooms. [Not in use in this sense until 18th century, the earliest reference in *O. E. D.* being 1767: the orig. meaning, the room admitting to the royal bed-chamber.]

Antem. See Autem.

Anthony. (1) *To knock Anthony*, to walk knock-kneed, cuff Jonas (q.v.). Hence *Anthony Cuffin*, a knock-kneed man. Also (2) to keep warm by beating one's sides: see Beating the Booby (*Grose*). *Anthony* (*or Tantony pig*), see Saint and Tantony. *St. Anthony's fire*, Erysipelas: from the tradition that those who sought the intercession of St. Anthony recovered from the pestilential erysipelas called the sacred fire which proved extremely fatal in 1089 (*Brewer*).

Antidote. A very homely Woman (*B. E.*).

Antient. At sea, for Ensign or Flag (*B. E.*) [*O. E. D.*: a corruption of Ensign, confounded with *ancien*.] Cf. Ancient Pistol, Othello's Ancient (i.e. standard bearers).

Antimony. Type. [Antimony is a constituent part.]

Antrums. See Tantrum.

Anvil. *On the anvil*, in preparation, in hand, on the stocks (the usual modern equivalent) [an iron] in the fire. Hence *to anvil*, fashion, prepare. (1607).

Anvil-beater (**-thresher, -whacker, etc.**). A smith. (1677.)

Any. *Any other man*, a call to order: addressed to a prosy or a discursive speaker, or when from lack of continuity in thought the same idea is repeated in synonymous terms. *I'm not taking any*, a more or less sarcastic refusal, Not for Joe.

Anybody. An ordinary individual: in depreciation; cf. Nobody, Somebody, etc. (1826.)

Anyhow. *All anyhow*, carelessly; at random. *Anyhow you can fix it*, a form of acquiescence: e.g. I don't know if you'll succeed, but anyhow you can fix it.

Any-racket. A penny-faggot.

Anything. *Like* (or *as*) *anything*, an indefinite but comprehensive standard of measurement or value, like one o'clock (old boots, winking, hell, etc.). (1542.)

Anythingarian. An indifferentist, Jack-of-both-sides. Hence *anythingarianism*, the creed of All things to all men. (1704.)

Anywhere. *Anywhere down there!* A workroom catch-phrase on anything falling to the floor.

Apart. Apart, severally, asunder (*B. E.*, c. 1696). [Except for an anticipation by Langland not in use till long after *B. E.*'s time.]

Apartments. 1. *Apartments to let*, empty-headed, foolish, crazy: see Balmy. 2. Said of a widow, also of a woman given to prostitution (*Ray* and *Grose*.)

Ape. 1. An antic, gull. Hence *God's ape*, a natural fool; *to play the ape*, (1) to mimic; and (2) to play the fool; *to put an ape into one's hood* (*cap*, or *hand*), to befool, dupe: also *to make one his ape*. As adj. (or *apish*), foolish: hence *ape-drunk*, maudlin; *ape-ware*, counterfeit ware. (1230.) 2. An endearment (*Malone*): cf. monkey. (1595.) 3. In pl., Atlantic and North-western First Mortgage Bonds. *To lead apes in hell*, to die unmarried: of both sexes. Hence *ape-leader*, an old maid, or bachelor (*Grose*). (1579.) *To say an ape's paternoster*, to chatter with cold. Fr., *dire des pate-nôtres de singe*. (1611.) Phrases. The ape claspeth her young so long that at last she killeth them; An ape is an ape, a varlet's a varlet, Though they be clad in silk or scarlet; The higher the ape goes, the more he shows his tail.

A-per-se. See A.

Aphrodisian-dame. A courtesan.

A-pigga-back (or **A-pisty-poll**). See Angel and Pick-a-back.

Apostles (**Twelve Apostles**). Formerly when the Poll, or ordinary B.A. degree list, was arranged in order of merit, the last twelve were nicknamed The Twelve Apostles; also The Chosen Twelve, and the last, St. Poll or St. Paul—a punning allusion to 1 Cor. xv. 9, For I am the least of the Apostles, that am not meet to be called an Apostle. The list is now arranged alphabetically and in classes. At Columbia College, D.C., the last twelve on the B.A. list actually receive the personal names of the Apostles. (1785.) *To manœuvre the apostles*, to borrow of one to pay another, to rob Peter to pay Paul (*Grose*).

Apostle's Grove. St. John's Wood; also the Grove of the Evangelist.

Apothecary. Formerly a term of contempt: prior to 1617 the business of grocer and chemist was combined, and it was not till 1815 that the status of an apothecary, as a medical practitioner, was legally held by licence and examination of the Apothecaries Company. Hence *To talk like an apothecary*, to talk nonsense, use (*Grose*) hard or gallipot words: from the assumed gravity and affectation of knowledge generally put on by the gentlemen of this profession, who are commonly as superficial in their learning as they are pedantic in their language. Also *Apothecaries'-Latin*, gibberish, dog- (kitchen-, or raw-) Latin (q.v.); *Apothecaries' bill*, a long undetailed account: cf. Bawdy-house reckoning. Likewise proverbial sayings: A broken apothecary, a new doctor; Apothecaries would not give pills in sugar unless they were bitter.

Appii (The) (Durham University). The Three Tuns: a celebrated Durham Inn. [A mis-reading of Acts xxviii. 15.]

Apple. In pl., a woman's paps: also *Apple-dumpling-shop* (*Grose*), the bosom. (1638.) Phrases and proverbial expressions: One rotten apple decays a bushel; To take an eye for an apple; As like as an apple is like an oyster; There's small choice in rotten apples; Won with an apple, lost with a nut; How we apples swim (What a good time we're having; a reference to the fable of a posse of horse-droppings floating down the river with a company of apples). (1340.) See Adam's Apple.

Apple-cart. The human body: cf. Beer-barrel. *To upset one's apple-cart*, to floor a man, to thwart (*Grose*). Also, to upset the old woman's apple-cart; to upset the apple-cart and spill the gooseberries (or peaches).

Apple-pie Bed. A bed made apple-pie fashion, like what is called a turnover apple-pie, where the sheets are so doubled as to prevent any one from getting at his length between them: a common trick played by frolicsome country lasses on their sweethearts, male relations, or visitors (*Grose*). Fr., *lit en portefeuille.*

Apple-pie Day (Winchester). The day on which Six-and-six (q.v.) was played. It was the Thursday after the first Tuesday in December. So called because hot apple-pies were served on gomers (q.v.) in College for dinner.

Apple-pie Order. The perfection of neatness and exactness. (1813).

Apples-and-pears. A flight of stairs.

Apple Squire. (1) A harlot's convenience. Hence (2) a kept-gallant (see Squire, Bully, and Fancy-man); (3) a wittol (q.v.); and (4) a pimp (q.v.). Also Pippin-squire, Squire of the body, Apple-John, Apple-monger, Apron-man, and Apron-squire. *Apple-wife*, bawd. Occasionally *Apron-squire*, groomsman. (1500.)

Approach. To know carnally. Hence *approachable*, wanton.

April. This month the poetical type of verdure (see Green) and inconstancy is frequently found in contemptuous combination. Thus *April-fool* (or Scots *April-gowk*), cuckoo: Fr., *poisson d'Avril*), one who is sent on a sleeveless errand (for strap-oil, pigeon's milk, the squad umbrella, the diary of Eve's grandmother, etc.), or who is the victim of asinine sport on April-Fools' (or All Fools') Day (1st April). This has given rise to the sarcastic *April-day*, a wedding-day; and *April-gentleman*, a newly-married husband. Also *April-fish*, a pimp (Fr., *maquereau*); *April-squire*, a new-made or upstart squire. (1592.) *To smell of April and May*, a simile of youth and courtship. (1596.) Also proverbial sayings: A windy March and a rainy April make a beautiful May; April showers bring forth May flowers; When April blows his horn it's good for hay and corn; April cling good for nothing; April—borrows three days of March, and they are ill; A cold April the barn will fill; An April flood carries away the frog and her brood; April and May are the keys of the year.

Apron. 1. A woman: generic; cf. Muslin; Petticoat; Placket, etc. Hence *tied to one's apron strings* (or *apron-led*), (1) under petticoat-rule, henpecked; and (2) in close attendance; *apron-hold* (or *apron-string hold*, or *tenure*), a life-interest in a wife's estate (*Grose*); *apron-squire* (see Apple-squire); *apron-husband*, a domestic meddler; *apron-up*, pregnant, lumpy (q.v.). Also (proverbial): Wise as her mother's apron-strings, dependent on a mother's bidding. (1542.) 2. Generic for one wearing an apron: e.g. a shopkeeper, a waiter, a workman: also apron-man, apron-rogue, aproneer. [Spec. the Parliamentary party (many of whom were of humble origin) during the Civil War: by Cavaliers in contempt.] Hence (3), a cleric of rank, a bishop or dean (also Apron-and-Gaiters). As verb, to cover with (or as with) an apron; and *aproned*, of the working-class, mechanic. Hence *checkered-apron*, a barber; *blue-apron* (q.v.); *green-apron*, a lay-preacher; *white-apron*, a prostitute. (1592.)

Apron-washings. Porter.

Aqua. Water: also Aqua-pompaginis (*Grose*, Dog-Latin). Hence, in jocose combination, *aquapote*, *aquabib* (*Bailey*, 1731), and *aquatic*, a water-drinker; *aqua-bob*, an icicle. (1704.)

Aquadiente. Brandy. (1835.)

Aquatics. (Eton). 1. The wet-bob (q.v.) cricket-team; and (2) the playing field used by them: see Sixpenny.

Aqua-vitæ. Formerly an alchemic term, but long popularly generic for ardent spirits; brandy, whisky, etc. [L. water of life. Cf. French *eau-de-vie*, and Irish *usquebaugh*.] Hence *aqua-vitæ man*, (1) a quack, and (2) a dram-seller. (1542.)

Arab. (1) A young street vagrant: also street arab and city arab. Whence (2) an outcast. (1848.)

Arabian-bird. Anything unique. [Properly the phœnix.] Also *Arabian nights*, the fabulous, the marvellous. (1605.)

Arcadian-nightingale (or **bird**), An ass: see Nightingale. (1694.)

Arch. 1. Properly chief, pre-eminent: hence, (1) clever, crafty, roguish (*B. E.*); and (2) extreme, out-and-out (q.v.). [*O. E. D.*: In modern use chiefly prefixed intensively to words of bad or odious sense.] Thus, *arch-botcher*, a clumsy patch-worker; *arch-fool* (or *dolt*), an out-and-out duffer; *arch-knave*, a rascal of parts; *arch-cove* (or *rogue*), spec. the ringleader of a band of gipsies or thieves: whence *arch-dell* (or *doxy*), the same in rank among the female canters of gipsies (*Grose*); *arch-whore*, a bilking harlot (*B. E.*), etc. Also, sharp, keen, splenetic: usually with *at* or *upon*. (1551.) 2. Saucy, waggish. Thus *arch-* (witty) *fellow* (*B. E.*); *arch-* (pleasant) *wag* (*B. E.*); *arch duke*, a comical or eccentric fellow (*Grose*). (1662.) See Ark.

Archdeacon. (Oxford). Merton strong ale.

Archwife. A masterful woman; a virago. (1383.)

Ard. Hot (*Grose*), ardent.

Ardelio. A busybody, meddler. (1598.)

Area-sneak (or **slum**). A petty thief: spec. one working houses by means of an area-gate (*Grose*): see Sneak, Slum, and Thief. (1865.)

Arg. To argue, grumble: cf. Argle.

Argal. Therefore, *ergo*: of which it is a corruption. As subs., a clumsy argument. See Argle. (1602.)

Argent. Money: generic: spec. silver money (*Bailey*): see Gent. Hence *argentocracy*, the power of money; Mammon (q.v.). (1500.)

Argle. To argue disputatiously, haggle, bandy words; also argle-bargle, argol-bargol, or argie-bargie. Whence *argol-bargolous*, quarrelsome: cf. Arg. (1589.)

Argot. The jargon, slang, or peculiar phraseology of a class, orig. that of thieves and rogues. See Slang and Cant. Whence *argotic*, slangy. (1611.)

Argue. *To argue out of* (*away*, *a dog's tail off*, etc.), to get rid of by argument: see Talk. (1713.)

Argufy. (1) To argue, worry, wrangle. Whence (2) to signify, prove of consequence, follow as a result of argument. *Argufier*, a contentious talker. See Arg and Argle. (1751.)

Aristippus. 1. Canary wine. (1627.) 2. 'A Diet-drink, or Decoction of Sarsa China, etc. Sold at certain

Coffee-houses, and drank as T' (*B. E.* and *Grose*).

Ark (or Arch). (1) A boat; a wherry: e.g. Let us take an Ark and winns, let us take a sculler (*B. E.* and *Grose*). Hence *arkman*, a waterman. Also (2), in Western America, a flat-bottomed market-produce boat (*Bartlett*): rarely seen since the introduction of steam. 3. A barrack-room chest: a lingering use of an old dialect word.

Arkansas-toothpick. A large sheath knife: orig. a bowie-knife (q.v.) (1854.)

Ark-floater. An actor well advanced in years.

Arm. Colloquialisms are: *To make a long arm*, to exert oneself; *as long as one's arm*, very long; *to work at arm's length*, to do awkwardly; *one under the arm* (tailor's), an extra job; *in the arms of Murphy* (or *Morpheus*), asleep: see Murphy.

Armful. A heap, a large quantity; spec. an endearment: of a bouncing baby, a big cuddlesome wench, etc. (1579.)

Armine. A wretched person, a beggar. (1605.)

Armour. *In armour*, pot-valiant; primed (q.v.).; full of Dutch courage (q.v.): see Screwed (*B. E.* and *Grose*).

Armpits. *To work under the armpits*, to escape the halter by the skin of one's teeth, to practise only such kinds of depredation as will amount, upon conviction, to whatever the law calls single, or petty, larceny; the extent of punishment for which is transportation for seven years. [On the passing of Sir Samuel Romilly's Act, capital punishment was abolished for highway robberies under 40s. in value.]

Arm-prop. A crutch; a wooden-leg (q.v.).

Arms-and-legs. Small beer: because there is no body in it (*Grose*).

Arm-slasher (or stabber). A gallant who bled his arm to toast his mistress; hence *to dagger* (or *stab*) *arms* to toast a lady-love. (1611.)

Armstrong. See Captain Armstrong.

Arrah. An expletive, with no special meaning (*Grose*); an expletive expressing emotion or excitement, common in Anglo-Irish speech (*O. E. D.*). [Farquhar, who first used the term (1705) was of Irish birth.]

Array. (1) To thrash, to dress down (q.v.); (2) to afflict, punish (q.v.); and (3) defile. Hence as subs., a drubbing, pickle (q.v.), plight, a pretty state of affairs. (1388.)

Arrow (or Arra). A corruption of e'er a, or ever a. (1750.)

'Arry. That is Harry: a popular embodiment of the vulgar, rollicking, yet on the whole good-tempered rough of the metropolis. Whence *'Arriet*, 'Arry's young woman. [Popularised by Milliken in a series of ballads in *Punch*.] *'Arryish*, vulgarly jovial. (1874.)

Arst. Asked.

Arter. After.

Artesian. A Gippsland (Victoria) brew of beer: manufactured with water obtained from an artesian well at Sale —hence *artesian* (generic), colonial beer: see Cascade.

Artful Dodger. 1. A lodger. 2. An expert thief: also a fellow who dares not sleep twice in the same place for fear of arrest. [The Artful Dodger, a character in Dickens' *Oliver Twist*.]

Arthur. *King* (or *Prince*) *Arthur*. A sailor's game. When near the line, or in a hot latitude, a man who is to represent King Arthur, is ridiculously dressed, having a large wig made out of oakum, or some old swabs. He is seated on the side, or over a large vessel of water, and every person in turn is ceremoniously introduced to him, and has to pour a bucket of water over him. crying out, Hail, King Arthur! If during the ceremony the person introduced laughs or smiles (to which his majesty endeavours to excite him by all sorts of ridiculous gesticulations), he changes places with, and then becomes King Arthur, till relieved by some brother tar who has as little command over his muscles as himself (*Grose*): cf. Ambassador.

Artichoke. 1. A term of contempt. (1600.) 2. A hanging: also hearty choak (*Grose*); whence *to have an artichoke and caper sauce for breakfast*, to be hanged.

Article. 1. A woman: e.g. *a prime article* (*Grose*), a handsome girl, a hell of a goer (*Lex. Bal.*). 2. A mildly contemptuous or sarcastic address: usually with such adjectives as pretty, nice, etc. Thus, You're a pretty article, You're a beauty (q.v.); What sort of an article do you think you are? What's your name when out for a walk? Also (*Halliwell*) of a wretched animal. 3. In pl., a suit of clothes (*Grose*).

Article of Virtue. A virgin. [A play upon virtue, and *virtu*.]

Artilleryman. A drunkard: cf. *canon*, drunk, and see Lushington.

Artist. An adroit rogue, skilful gamester.—*N. Y. S. D.*

As. See Make.

Asia Minor. The Kensington and Bayswater district. [Many Anglo-Indians reside in this locality. The nickname is double-barrelled, for the district is also the headquarters of the Greek community in the metropolis.] Cf. New Jerusalem, Black Hole, etc.

Asinego. (1) A little ass; hence (2) a fool, donkey (q.v.), duffer (q.v.). (1606.)

Ask. To proclaim in church: as a marriage; literally to ask for (or the) banns thereto. Formerly also of stray cattle, etc. [*O. E. D.*: The recognised expression is now to publish the banns; but ask is the historical word.] Whence *asking*, an announcement in church of intended marriage (1461). *Ask another*, a jesting or contemptuous retort to a question that one cannot, will not, or ought not, to answer: also *Ask bogy* (q.v.).

Askew. A cup: see Skew (*Harman*, 1567).

Aspasia. A harlot. The name of one of the celebrated courtesans of Athens, called Hetærae (*ἑταιραι*), many of whom were highly accomplished and were faithful to one lover. . . . Representative of a fascinating courtesan, and more rarely, of an accomplished woman.

Aspen-leaf. The tongue. (1532.)

Ass. Generic for stupidity, clumsiness, and ignorance. Hence (1) a fool: see Buffle. [*O. E. D.*: now disused in polite literature and speech.] Also asshead: whence *assheaded*, stupid; and *assheadedness*, folly. *To make an ass of*, to stultify; *to make an ass of oneself*, to play the fool; *Your ass-ship* (a mock title: cf. lordship). Also Proverbs and proverbial sayings: When a fool is made a bishop then a horned ass is born therein (1400): Perhaps thy ass can tell thee what thou knowest not (*Nash*); To wrangle for an ass's shadow (*Thynne*); Go sell an ass (*Topsell*: a charge of blockishness to a dull scholar). Angry as an ass with a squib in his breech (*Cotgrave*); Honey is not for an ass's mouth (*Shelton*); An ass laden with gold will go lightly uphill (*Shelton*); Asses have ears as well as pitchers (*Middleton*); He will act the ass's part to get some bran (*Urquhart*); An ass in a lion's skin (*Addison*); An unlettered king is a crowned ass (*Freeman*); *to plough with ox and ass*, to use incongruous means; The ass waggeth his ears (*Cooper*, 1563: 'a proverbe applied to theim, whiche, although they lacke learnynge, yet will they babble and make a countenance, as if they knew somewhat'). 2. A compositor: used by pressmen: the tit-for-tat is pig (q.v.): also donkey: Fr., *mulet*.

Assassin. A breast knot, or similar decoration worn in front. [*Century*: with allusion to its killing effect.]

Assayes (The). The 2nd battalion (late 74th) Highland Light Infantry: for distinction at Assaye, when every officer present, save one, was killed or wounded, and the battalion was reduced to a mere wreck (*Farmer, Mil. Forces of Gt. and Greater Britain*).

Asses' Bridge (The). The fifth proposition in the First Book of Euclid's *Elements*; the *pons asinorum*. (1780.)

Assig. An assignation (*B. E.* and *Grose*).

Assmanship (or Asswomanship). The art of donkey-riding: on the model of *horsemanship*. (1800.)

Aste. Money: generic: see Rhino (*Nares*). (1612.)

Astronomer. A horse with a high carriage of the head; a star-gazer (q.v.).

At. See All; Breeches; Hand; Have; Pickpurse; Rest; That; You.

Athanasian Wench. A forward girl; Quicunque vult (q.v.): see Tart.

Athens. *The Modern Athens.* (1) Edinburgh; and (2) Boston, Mass. (also The Athens of America).

Atlantic-ranger. A herring, a sea-rover (q.v.): see Glasgow magistrate.

Atkins. See Tommy Atkins.

Atomy. 1. An anatomy, specimen, skeleton; also otamy: whence (2) a very lean person, walking skeleton (1598). 2. A diminutive person, pigmy (1591). 3. An empty-headed individual.

Atrocity. Anybody or anything grievously below the ordinary standard or out of the common: e.g. a bad blunder, a flagrant violator of good taste, a very weak pun, etc. Hence *atrocious*, shockingly bad, execrable, and as adv. excessively. (1831.)

Attack. A commencement of operations; as (jocularly) upon dinner, a problem, correspondence, etc. Also as verb. (1812.)

Attempt. To approach a woman; to attack the chastity. Hence *attempter*, *attemptable*, and other derivatives. (1593.)

Attic. The head, brain, upper storey (q.v.)

Attic-salt (style or wit). Well-turned phrases spiced with refined and delicate humour. (1633.)

Attleborough. Pinchbeck, Brummagem (q.v.). [Attleborough is celebrated for its manufacture of trashy jewelry.]

Attorney. 1. A knave, swindler; an ancient (and still general) reproach. Whence *attorneydom* and *attorneyism* (in contempt or abuse). (1732.) 2. A drumstick of goose, or turkey, grilled and devilled: cf. Devil. (1828.)

Attorney-General's Devil. See Devil.

Auctioneer. *To tip* (or *give*) *the auctioneer*, to knock a man down; Tom Sayers' right hand was nicknamed *the auctioneer*.

Audit-ale (or Audit). A special brew of ale: orig. for use on audit days. *Univ.* (1823.)

Audley. See John Audley.

Aufe. See Oaf.

Auger. A prosy talker, bore (q.v.).

Aught. A common illiteracy for naught, the cyper 0.

Auld Hornie. The Devil: see Blackspy.

Auld Reekie. The Old Town, Edinburgh; i.e. Old Smoky. (1826.)

Auly Auly. (Win. Coll.: obsolete). A game played in Grass Court on Saturday afternoons after chapel. An indiarubber ball was thrown one to another, and everybody was obliged to join in. The game, though in vogue in 1830, was not played as late as 1845.

Aumbes-ace. See Ames-ace.

Aunt. 1. A bawd; a harlot (*B. E.* and *Grose*): hence (old sayings) My aunt will feed me, She is one of my aunts that made my uncle go a-begging (or that my uncle never got any good of). (1604.) 2. An endearment or familiar address; also aunty: spec. (1) in nursery talk, a female friend of the family; and (2) a matronly woman: hence *aunthood*: cf. Uncle. (1592.) 3. (Oxford and Cambridge: obsolete.) The sister university. (1655.) Phrases. If my *aunt* had been my uncle what would have happened then? (a retort on inconsequent talk); *to go and see one's aunt*, to go to the W.C. (see Mrs. Jones).

Aunt Sally. A game common to race-courses and fairs; a wooden head is mounted on a pole to form a target; in the mouth is placed a clay pipe, which the player, standing at twenty or thirty yards, tries to smash.

Au Reservoir! *Au revoir.*

Aurum Potabile. That is, Drinkable gold; 'a medicine made of the body of gold itself, totally reduced, without corrosive, into a blood-red, gummie, or honylike substance' (*Phillips*); also, some rich Cordial Liquor, with pieces of leaf gold in it (*Kersey*).

Australian Flag. A rucked-up shirt-tail.

Australian Grip. A hearty handshake.

Autem (Autum, Autom, or Antem). A church (*Harman*, *B. E.*, *Grose*). As adj., married; also in numerous combinations, thus: *autem-bawler* (*-cackler*, *-jet* or *-prickear*), a parson: spec. of Dissenters; *autem-cackle tub*, (1) a dissenting meeting-house, (2) a pulpit; *autum-cove*, a married man; *autum-dipper* (or *-diver*), (1) a Baptist, (2) a thief working churches or conventicles, and (3) an overseer or guardian of the poor; *autum-goggler*, a pretended French prophet (*Grose*); *autum-mort*, a married woman, also the Twenty-fourth Order of the Canting Tribe, Travelling, Begging (and often Stealing) about the Country with one Child in Arms, another on Back, and (sometimes) leading a third in the Hand; *autum-quaver*, a Quaker; *autum-quaver tub*, a Quaker's meeting-house.

Author-baiting. Calling a playwright before the curtain to subject him to annoyance—yelling, hooting, bellowing, etc.

Avast! Hold! Stop! Stay! (1681.)

Avering subs. (old). Begging on the shallow (q.v.) dodge. (1695.)

Avoirdupois. Excess of flesh, fat.

Avoirdupois-lay. Stealing brass weights off the counters of shops (*Grose*).

Avuncular. Humorously employed in various combinations: e.g. *avuncular relation*, a pawnbroker; an uncle (q.v.); *avuncular life*, pawnbroking; also *avuncular*, of or pertaining to an uncle; *to avunculize*, to act as an uncle. (1662.)

Awake. On the alert, vigilant. fully appreciative: see Fly. (1785.)

Away. Away (forthwith, continuously) occurs in several colloquialisms, mostly imperative. Thus: *Fire away*, Commence immediately; *Say away*, Spit it out; *Peg away*, Keep going; *Right away*, at once: *Away the mare*, Adieu to care, Begone; *Far-and-away*, altogether; *Who can hold that will away?* Who can bind an unwilling tongue? *To mistake away*, to pilfer and pretend mistake; *Away back*, (1) long ago, and (2) see Way-back.

Awful. Monstrous: hence a generic intensive — great, long, exceedingly good, bad, pretty, etc. Thus an *awful* (very unpleasant) *time; awful* (side-splitting) *fun; awfully* (uncommonly) *jolly*, etc. Also *penny-awful*, a blood-curdling tale: cf. Dreadful shocker, Blood-and-guts story, etc. As **adv.**, exceedingly, extremely. (1816.)

Awkward. Pregnant, lumpy (q.v.).

Awkward-squad. Recruits at drill.

Awls. See Alls.

Ax. This archaic form of *ask*, once and long literary, survives dialectically [*O. E. D.*: *Ax*, down to nearly 1600, was the regular literary form: it was supplanted in standard English by *ask*, originally the northern form.] Also *ax-my-eye*, a cute fellow, a knowing blade. (1380.) Phrases: *To have an ax to grind*, to have personal interests to serve; *to put the ax in the helve*, to solve a doubt, unriddle a puzzle; *to send the ax after the helve* (or *the helve after the hatchet*), to despair; *to hang up one's ax*, to desist from fruitless labour, abandon a useless project; *to open a door with an ax* (said of barren or unprofitable labour).

Axewaddle. To wallow. Hence *axewaddler* (a term of contempt).

Ayrshires. Glasgow and South-Western Railway Stock.

B. 1. The title of a captain in the army of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (*H. J. Byron*). 2. (Harrow). A standard in Gymnasium the next below A (q.v.). 3. (Felsted). See A. *Not to know B from a bull's foot* (*a battledore, a broomstick*, or any alliterative jingle), to be illiterate or ignorant, unable to distinguish which is which: also affirmatively: see A, Battledore, Chalk, etc. (1401.) *B Flat* (or *B*), a bed bug, Norfolk Howard (q.v.): cf. F sharp. (1853.)

Ba. To kiss: also as subs.: cf. Buss. [*O. E. D.*: probably a nursery or jocular word; *Century*, perhaps the humorous imitation of a smack.] (1383.)

Baa. A bleat; also as verb; of a sheep. Hence *baaling*, a lambkin: also *baa-lamb; baaing*, noisy silliness, and as adj. (1500.)

Bab. The first word children use, as with us dad or daddie or bab (*Florio*): Also *babba*.

Babber-lipped. See Blabber-lips.

Babble. Confused unintelligible talk such as was used at the building of the tower of Babel (*B. E.* and *Grose*). *Babbler*, a great talker (*B. E.*). [*O. E. D.*: Common to several languages: in none can its history be carried far back; as yet it is known as early in English as anywhere else..... No direct connection with Babel can be traced; though association with that may have affected the senses.]

Babbler. 1. A hound giving too much tongue. (1732.) 2. See Babble.

Babe. 1. The last elected member of the House of Commons: cf. *father of the House*, the oldest representative. 2. The youngest member of a class at the United States Military College, West Point. 3. An auction shark (q.v.); a knock-out (q.v.) man: for a consideration these agree not to oppose the bidding of larger dealers, who thus keep down the price of lots. 4. (American). A Baltimore rowdy: also blood tub (q.v.), plug-ugly (q.v.): see Baby.

Babe in the Wood. 1. A culprit in the stocks or pillory (*Grose*). 2. In pl., dice.

Baboo (or Babu). In Bengal, and elsewhere, among Anglo-Indians, it is often used with a slight savour of disparagement as characterising a superficially cultivated, but too often effeminate Bengali; and from the extensive employment of the class to which the term was applied as a title in the capacity of clerks, in English offices the word has come often to signify a native clerk who writes English (*Yule*). Hence *baboo-English*, superfine; grandiloquent English such as is written by a *baboo*; also *baboodom* and *babooism*. (1866.)

Baboon. A term of abuse: see Ape. Whence *baboonery*; *baboonish*; and *baboonize*, to monkey (q.v.). (1380.)

Baby (or Babe). 1. A childish person: e.g. a great baby, a mere baby, etc. Hence, *to smell of the baby*, to be infantine or childish (in character or ability): cf. Baby-act. Also, to act (or treat) childishly; *babyhood* (*babydom* or *babyism*), childishness; *baby-bunting*, an endearment. (1596.) 2. In pl., pictures in books. [*O. E. D.*: perh. orig. the ornamental tail-pieces and borders with Cupids and grotesque figures interworked.] (1605.) 3. The minute reflection of one gazing into another's eye. Hence *to look babies* (or *a boy*) *in the eyes*, to look amorously; to cast sheep's-eyes (q.v.). (1586.) 4. A doll, puppet, a child's plaything: also *baby-clouts*, a rag-doll: see Bartholomew-baby. (1530.) As adj., small; tiny; e.g. a baby-glass, baby-engine, etc. (1859.) *To kiss the baby*, to take a drink; to smile (q.v.).

Baby Act. The legal defence of infancy: hence *to plead the baby act*, (1) to plead minority as avoiding a contract; and (2) to excuse oneself on the ground of inexperience.

Baby-farmer. A professional adopter of infants, minder (q.v.): spec. in an evil sense: once the money is paid, the children are frequently gradually done to death. Whence *Baby-farming*.

Baby-herder. A nurse.

Babylon. Generic for luxury and magnificence. Hence (1) the papal power (formerly identified with the mystical Babylon of the Apocalypse); (2) any large city: spec. London (also Modern Babylon). *Babylonian*, (1) a papist; and (2) an astrologer (Chaldea was the ancient seat of the craft); *babylonish*, popish. (1564.)

Babylonitish. (Winchester). A dressing gown. [That is Babylonitish garment.]

Baby's-pap. A cap.

Baby Wee-wees. Buenos Ayres Water Works shares.

Bacca. Tobacco: Fr., *perlot* (from *perle*). Also Bacco, Baccy, Backer, and Backey. (1833.)

Bacca-pipes. Whiskers curled in ringlets: obsolete: see Mutton-chops.

Baccare (or Bakkare), Go back! Give place! Away! (1473.)

Bacchus. 1. Wine, intoxicating liquor. Whence *son of Bacchus*, a tippler: see Lushington; and *Bacchi plenus*, drunk: see Screwed. [Innumerable derivatives and combinations have been and are still in more or less regular and literary use.] (1496.) 2. (Eton.) Verses written (*c.* 1561) on Shrove Tuesday in honour or dispraise of Bacchus—because poets were considered the clients of Bacchus. . . . This custom was continued almost into modern days, and though the subject was changed, the copy of verses was still called a Bacchus.

Bach (or Batch). To live as a bachelor.

Bachelor. *Then the town bull is a bachelor*, the retort incredulous on a woman's chastity (*Ray*).

Bachelor's Baby. A bastard: see Bye-blow and Bachelor's-wife. (1672.)

Bachelor's Buttons. *To wear bachelor's buttons*, to be a bachelor. [*Grey*. Country fellows carried the flowers of this plant in their pockets, to know whether they should succeed with their sweethearts, and they judged of their good or bad success by their growing or not growing there.]

Bachelor's-fare. Bread and cheese and kisses. (1738.)

Bachelor's-wife. (1) An ideal wife; and (2) a harlot: whence *bachelor's baby*, a bastard. (1562.)

Back. 1. To espouse, advocate, or support, a matter, by money, influence, authority, etc.: commonly, to back up. Hence (2), in racing, to wager, or bet in support of one's opinion, judgment, or fancy; *to back the field*, to bet against all horses save one, usually the favourite;

backed, betted on; *backer*, (1) a supporter, back-friend (q.v.), and (2) a layer of odds: cf. bookie; *backing*, support. (1548.) 3. To endorse, countersign: e.g. to back a cheque; also *to back a bill*, to become responsible for payment: cf. to foot an account; *backed*, endorsed, accepted: formerly to direct or address a letter: prior to the general use of envelopes, the address was written on the back of the folded sheet (1768): *to be backed*, to be carried for dead. Phrases and colloquialisms: *To give one the back*, to ignore; *behind one's back*, out of sight, hearing, or knowledge; *to give back*, to turn tail; *to turn one's* (or *the*) *back on*, (1) to go, (2) abandon, and (3) snub; *back and side* (*back and belly*, or *back and edge*), all over, completely, through thick and thin; *to take the back on oneself*, to run away; *with back to the wall*, hard-pressed, struggling against odds; *to have by the back*, to seize, lay hold of; *to break the back*, (1) to overburden, (2) all but finish (a task); *to ride on one's back*, to deceive; *to get the back of*, (1) to take in the rear, and (2) have at an advantage; *on one's back*, (1) floored (q.v.), (2) at the end of one's resources, (3) sick or indisposed; *to have* (*put*, *get*, or *set*) *one's back up*, (1) to resist, rouse, and (2) get (or be) angry (*B. E.* and *Grose*): whence, *don't get your back up!* Keep calm! or *Your back's up*, a jeer at an angry hunchbacked man; *to back out*, to retire cautiously, escape from a dilemma; *to give* (or *make*) *a back*, (1) to lend a hand, and (2) bend the body, as at leap-frog; *to back down*, (1) to yield or retire from a matter, and (2) eat one's words: hence a *back-down* (or *square back down*), (1) utter collapse, and (2) a severe rebuff; *to be on a man's back*, to chide, be severe upon; *to see the back of*, to get rid of. Also His *back* is broad enough to bear jests (*Ray*); What is got over the devil's *back* is spent under his belly. *To back up* (Winchester), to call out: e.g. Why didn't you *back up?* I would have come and helped you. In College, times are *backed up* by Junior in Chambers: such as Three quarters, Hour, Bells go single, Bells down. See Beyond.

Back-and-belly. All over, completely: also back-and-bed, and cf. back-and-edge (supra, s.v. Back, phrases). Hence *to keep one back-and-belly*, to provide everything, feed and clothe; *to beat one back-and-belly*, to thrash thoroughly. (*c.* 1300.)

Backare. See Baccare.

Backbiter. 1. One who slanders another behind his back, i.e. in his absence (*Grose*). Also (2) His bosom friends are become his back-biters, said of a lousy man.

Back-breaker. 1. A hard taskmaster: spec. the foreman of a gang of farm labourers; and (2) any task that requires excessive exertion. Hence *back-breaking*, arduous.

Back-cap. To depreciate, disparage: also *to give a back-cap*.

Back-cheat. A cloak; a wrap-rascal (q.v.).

Backdoor. The fundament. Hence *backdoor-trot*, diarrhœa. As adj., clandestine, speciously secret: also backstairs: e.g. *backdoor counsellor*, *backstairs influence* (or *work*), etc.; orig. and spec. of underhand intrigue at Court, i.e. when the Sovereign is approached secretly by the private stairs of a palace instead of by the State entrance. (1611.)

Back-end. The last two months of the racing season, commencing with October: also as adj. [Properly, the latter part of autumn.] Hence *back-ender*, a horse entered for a race late in the season. (1820.)

Backfall. A trip or fall on the back, as also *backheel* and *backlock*. Also as verb. (1713.)

Back-friend. (1) A secret enemy; one who holds back in time of need. Also (2) an ally (see Back, verb, 2). (1472.) (3) A splinter of skin formed near the roots of the finger-nail, a stepmother's blessing (q.v.).

Back-gammon. See Backdoor.

Back-handed Turn. An unprofitable bargain.

Back-hander. 1. A glass of wine out of turn, the bottle being passed back or retained for a second glass instead of following the sun round the table. Hence *backhand* (verb) and *backhanding*. (1855.) 2. A blow on the face delivered with the back of the hand; hence an unexpected rebuff, a set-down (q.v.). (1836.)

Backing and Filling. Shifty, irresolute, shilly-shally: orig. nautical. (1854.)

Backing On. See Turning-on.

Backings up (Winchester). The unconsumed ends of half-burned faggots: obsolete.

Back Jump. A back window: see Jump (*Grose*).

Backmarked. *To be backmarked,* in handicapping to receive less start from scratch than previously given.

Back-paternoster. See Backwards.

Back-scratcher. 1. A wooden toy on the principle of a watchman's rattle, which, drawn down the back, sounds like the ripping up of cloth; much in favour at fairs and in crowds; its use (in London) is now (1904) prohibited by police order. 2. A flatterer: hence *back-scratching,* flattery: cf. Ka me, Ka thee.

Back-seam. *To be down on one's back-seam,* to be down on one's luck.

Back Seat. *To take a back seat,* to retire into obscurity, confess failure, be left behind. [The colloquialism received an immense send off by Andrew Johnson in 1868: In the work of reconstruction traitors should take back seats.]

Back-set (modern, Set-back). A rebuff, untoward circumstance, relapse. Hence, *to set back,* to check.

Back-slang. 1. A variety of slang, orig. costers, in which a word is slightly veiled by being written or pronounced as nearly as possible backwards: thus *yob,* boy; *cool,* look; *yennep,* penny; etc. 2. See Slum. 3. A back-room; also the back-entrance to any house or premises; thus, we'll give it 'em on the back slum, means we'll get in at the backdoor. As verb, (1) To enter or come out of a house by the backdoor; or to go a circuitous or private way through the streets, in order to avoid any particular place in the direct road, is termed back-slanging it (*Grose*). (2) (Australian) to ask for hospitality on the road: a common and recognised up-country practice.

Back-slum. See Slum 2, and Back-slang.

Backstair. See Backdoor.

Backstaircase. A bustle, dress improver: see Birdcage.

Back-stall. See Stale, subs. 5.

Back-talk. (1) A rude answer; (2) contradiction; (3) an insinuation; and (4) withdrawal from a promise or an accepted invitation (Lanc.): also *back-word* and *back-answer.* Hence *backward-answer,* a perverse reply; *No back talk!* Shut up! (1605.)

Back-teeth. *To have one's back teeth afloat,* to be drunk: see Screwed.

Back-timber. Clothes: cf. Belly-timber. (1656.)

Back Tommy. Cloth to cover the stays at the waist.

Backtrack. *To take the back-track,* to retreat, back out (q.v.).

Back-trade. A backward course. (1640.)

Back-trick. A caper backwards in dancing. (1601.)

Backward. A few phrases fall into alphabet here; *To say* (*or sing*) *the Te Deum* (the *Lord's Prayer* or *to spell*) *backwards,* to mutter, curse: also as a charm: hence *back-paternoster* (or *prayer*), an imprecation; *to go backwards,* to go to the W.C.: see Mrs. Jones; *to piss backwards,* to defecate; *to blow backwards,* crepitate; If I were to fall backwards, I should break my nose (*Ray*: It., i.e. I am so foiled in everything I undertake). See Back-talk.

Backwardation. A sum which a seller pays for not being obliged to deliver the shares at the time before agreed upon, but to carry them over to the following account: cf. Contango. Also Backwardization.

Back-word. See Back-talk.

Backy. A shopmate working behind another.

Bacon. 1. Generic for rusticity. Thus *bacon-slicer* (*bacon-chops* or *chaw-bacon*) a rustic; *bacon-brains,* a stupid clodhopper: hence *bacon-brained* (*-faced* or *-fed*), clownish, dull (*Bee* and *Grose*): also *bacon-faced* (or *-side*), fat-jowled, fat, sleek; *bacon-picker,* a glutton. (1596.) 2. The human body. Whence *to save one's bacon,* to save appearances, to escape injury or loss (*B. E.*, *Grose*, *Bee*): Fr., *sauver son lard; to sell one's bacon,* (1) to work for hire and spec., (2) to play the harlot for bread. (1362.) *To pull bacon,* described in the *Ingoldsby Legends*: He put his thumb unto his nose and spread his fingers out, to take a sight (q.v.), to make Queen Anne's Fan (q.v.). Phrases: A good voice to beg *bacon* (said in jeer of an ill voice) (*B. E.* and *Grose*); When the devil is a hog, you shall eat *bacon* (*Ray*).

Bad (or **Badly**). Very much, greatly. Also colloquial phrases; *to go* *to the bad*, to go to ruin; *to be* [anything] *to the bad*, to show a deficit, be on the wrong side of an account; *to come back again like a bad penny*, (1) of anything unwelcome, and (2) a jocular assurance of return; *not half bad*, fairly good; *bad to beat*, difficult to excel; *to want badly*, the superlative of desire; *cruel bad*, very bad. Also Give a dog a *bad* name and you may hang him. (1816.)

Bad Bargain. See Q.H.B.

Bad-break. A corruption of bad outbreak.

Bad Crowd Generally. In sing., a mean wretch, no great shakes (q.v.).

Bad-egg (-halfpenny, -hat, -lot, penny, etc.). 1. A ne'er-do-weel, loose fish: in America more indefinitely used than in England. Also (old), a bad or risky speculation: Fr., *mauvais gobet*. (1363.)

Bad Form. Conduct not in keeping with a conventional standard, vulgarity.

Badge. 'A mark of Distinction among poor People; as Porters, Watermen, Parish-Pensioners, and Hospital-boys, Blew-coats and Badges being the ancient Liveries' (*B. E.*). Hence *badge-cove* (or *-man*), a parish pensioner (*Grose*). *To have one's badge*, to be burned in the hand: e.g. *He has got his badge and piked*, He has been burned in the hand and set at liberty (*Grose*).

Badger. 1. They that buy up a quantity of Corn and hoard it up in the same Market, till the price rises; or carry it to another where it bears a better (*B. E.*). [*O. E. D.*: Origin unknown: Fuller derived it from L., *bajutare*, to carry (as if a cant contraction baj., cf. the modern zoo, cab, etc.), but evidence is required before this can be admitted for the 15c. . . . By Act 5 and 6 Ed. VI. c. 14. 7, Badgers were required to be licensed by the Justices (the origin of the hawker's license).] 2. A river desperado; villains who rob near rivers, into which they throw the bodies of those they murder (*Grose*): see Ark-ruffian. 3. A panel-thief (q.v.): hence Badger-crib. 4. A red-haired individual. 5. A common prostitute. 6. The impersonator of Neptune in the festivities incident to Crossing the Line; also *Badger-bag*; see Ambassador and Arthur. 7. (Wellington School) A member of the 2nd XV. at football. [A badge is worn by each individual: see sense 1.] 8. A brush; spec. when made of badger's hair. 9. See Badger State. As verb, to worry unceasingly: as a badger when baited; to pester: usually of a helpless victim (*Bee*). Hence *badgered*, worried, teased; *badgering*, heckling, persecution: Fr., *aguigner*. (1794.) *To overdraw the badger*, to overdraw a banking account. (1843.)

Badger-box (Australian). A badger-box is like an inverted V in section. They are covered with bark, with a thatch of grass along the ridge, and are on an average about 14 × 10 feet at the ground, and 9 or 10 feet high.

Badgerly. Elderly, grey-haired: cf. grey as a badger. (1753.)

Badger State. (1) The State of Wisconsin. [Badgers once abounded there.] Whence *Badger*, an inhabitant of Wisconsin.

Bad Give-away. See Give-away.

Bad-halfpenny. See Bad-egg.

Bad Job. An ill bout, bargain, or business (*B. E.*).

Bad Man. A professional fighter or man-killer, but who is sometimes perfectly honest. These men do most of the killing in frontier communities; yet the men who are killed generally deserve their fate. They are used to brawling, are sure shots, and able to draw their weapon with marvellous quickness. They think nothing of murder, are the terror of their associates, yet are very chary of taking the life of a man of good standing, and will often weaken, and back down, at once if confronted fearlessly. Stockmen have united to put down these dangerous characters, and many localities once infested by bad men are now perfectly law-abiding (*Rooseveldt*).

Bad Match Twist. Red (or carroty) hair and black whiskers.

Badminton. 1. A kind of claret-cup: claret, sugar, spice, soda-water, and ice. [Invented at the Duke of Beaufort's seat of the same name.] (1845.) 2. Blood: cf. Claret, Rosy, etc.

Bad Shot. See Shot.

Bad Slang. Faked up monstrosities, spurious curiosities: see Slang, subs. 7.

Bad Way. See Way.

Baff. See Buff.

Bag. 1. The womb. Hence as verb (or *to be bagged*), to become pregnant, to get big with child; *bagged*, lumpy (q.v.): properly of animals; *bag-pudding*, pregnancy: cf. Sweet-heart and bag-pudding (*Ray*). (1598.) 2. The stomach: hence as verb, to feed, fill the stomach; *bagging*, food: spec. (North) food eaten between meals, or (Lanc.) a substantial afternoon repast, high tea; hence *bagging-time*. (1750.) 3. In pl., the paps, dugs (q.v.): properly of animals. (1642.) 4. In pl., Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Bonds. 5. In pl., loosely-fitting clothes: spec. trousers; also *bumbags*: whence *howling bags*, breeches of loud pattern or cut, and *go-to-meeting-bags*, Sunday clothes, one's best wear: see Kicks. Hence *baggy*, stretched by wear; *baggily*, loosely; *to bag*, to sag; *bag-sleeve*, a sleeve *baggy* above, and tight at, the wrist. (1350.) 6. (Westminster School). In sing., milk. 7. The contents of a game bag, the result of sport; said of racing as of fishing, shooting, etc.; and alike of a big game expedition as of a day in the stubble. As verb (or *to bring to bag*), (1) to shoot, to kill, to catch. (1814.) (2) To acquire, secure: i.e. to seize, catch, or steal: cf. Nab, Cop, Bone, etc. Whence (old) *bagger*, a miser; *bagged*, (1) got, and (2) quodded (q.v.). (1740.) As intj., *Bags!* or *Bags I!* to assert a claim to some article of privilege: cf. Fains or Fain it (q.v.), a demand for a truce during a game, which is always granted: *Pike I* (or *Prior pike*) likewise serves to lay claim to anything, or to assert priority: also *bar!* e.g. He wanted me to do so and so, but I barred not. Phrases. *To turn to bag and wallet*, to turn beggar; *to give one the bag to hold* (*Ray*), to slip off: also leave in the lurch; *to give the bag*, (1) to leave without warning (*Grose*), also (2) dismiss, and (3) cheat (*Webster*): see Canvas, Sack, and Wallet; *to let the cat out of the bag*, to disclose a trick or secret (see Cat); *to empty the bag*, to tell all: also lose an argument (Fr., *vider le sac*); *to put one in a bag*, to vanquish, double up; *to put* (or *get*) *one's head in a bag*, to drink a pot of beer; *to take the bag*, to play the hare in Hare and Hounds; *to have the bags*, (1) to come of age, and (2) be flush of money; *to bag the over* (see Jockey). See Blue-bag; Carpet-bagger; Cat; Green-bag; Nose-bag; Wind-bag.

Bag-and-baggage. One's belongings: hence *to clear* (or *turn*) *out bag-and-baggage*, to make a good riddance: in depreciation. [*O. E. D.*: Originally a military phrase denoting all the property of an army collectively, and of the soldiers individually; hence the phrase, orig. said to the credit of an army or general, To march out with bag-and-baggage (Fr., *vie et bagues sauves*); i.e. with all belongings saved . . . to make an honourable retreat.] *Bag-and-baggage policy*, wholesale surrender, general scuttling, peace at any price. (1600.)

Bag and Bottle. Provisions, food and drink: cf. Back and belly.

Bagatelle. A trifle, matter of little worth or consequence. As adj., trumpery, trifling. [*O. E. D.*: Formerly quite naturalised; now scarcely so.] (1637.)

Baggage. 1. Luggage, portable property; belongings (q.v.): spec. the equipment of an army. Hence *bag-and-baggage* (q.v.). Whence *baggage-check*, a luggage-ticket, cloak-room ticket; *baggage-man* (or *master*), a guard in charge of luggage; *baggage-room*, a parcels office or cloak-room; *baggage-smasher*, a porter, station thief. (1430.) 2. Generic for trash: e.g. encumbrances, rubbish, dirt, pus. Whence (spec. post-Reformation), the rites and accessories of Catholic ritual: cf. sense 3. As adj., trumpery (also baggagely), corrupt, vile. (1538.) 3. A good-for-nothing: man or woman: spec. strumpet (*B. E.*: cf. Fr. *bagasse*, Sp. *bagaza*, Port. *bgasa*, It. *bagascia*). Also (4) a familiar address to a woman, esp. a young woman: usually qualified by *cunning*, *saucy*, *pretty*, *little*, *sly*, etc. (*Grose*): cf. Puss, Rogue, Wench, Drab, etc. As adj., worthless (see sense 2), vile; *baggagery*, the rabble, the scum of society. *Heavy baggage* (*Grose* and *Bee*), women and children.

Baggy. Inflated; high-falutin' (q.v.). See Bag, subs. 3.

Bagle. A prostitute (*Halliwell*).

Bagman. 1. A bag-fox, a fox caught and preserved alive to be hunted another day, when it is brought in a bag and turned out before the hounds. 2. A commercial traveller, an Ambassador of commerce (q.v.): formerly the usual epithet, but now in depreciation. (1765.)

Bagnio. A brothel, a stew (q.v.). [Orig. a bathing-house.] Also Baines. (1541.)

Bag-of-bones. An emaciated person (or animal) a walking skeleton (q.v.), shapes (q.v). Also (old) Bed-full of bones, and Bagful of skin and bones: Fr., *sacdos* (i.e. *sac à dos*). (1621.)

Bag of Nails. Confusion, topsy-turveydom. [Qy. from bacchanals.] Also, He squints like a bag of nails, i.e. his eyes are directed as many ways as the points of a bag of nails (*Grose.*)

Bag o' Moonshine. Nonsense: see Moonshine.

Bag of Mystery. A sausage (or saveloy), a chamber of horrors (q.v.).

Bag-of-tricks. Usually *the whole bag of tricks*, every shift or expedient. [See fable of The Fox and the Cat.] Hence *the bottom of the bag of tricks* (or *the bag*), a last resource, a card up one's sleeve. (1659.)

Bagpipe. A chatterbox, a wind-bag (q.v.): cf. He's like a bagpipe, he never talks till his belly's full. As adj., empty-headed, gutless (q.v.); and as verb, to gas (q.v.).

Bag-pudding. A clown: cf. Jack-pudding: see Bag, subs. 1.

Bag-wig. An eighteenth century wig; the back hair was enclosed in an ornamental bag; hence *bag-wigged*, wearing a bag-wig. (1760.)

Ba-ha. Bronchitis.

Bah. An exclamation of contempt or disgust: Fr., *bah!* (1600.)

Bail. *Straw-bail* (or *straw-shoes*). 1. Professional bail: see Straw. Also (2) insufficient bail (modern). *To give* (or *take*) *leg bail*, to escape, be indebted to one's legs for safety: see Bunk. Also *to take leg-bail and give land-security.* (1775.)

Bail up (or **Bale up**). (1) To secure the head of a cow in a bail for milking. (2) By transference, to stop travellers in the bush, used of bush-rangers. . . . It means generally to stop. Like Stick up (q.v.), it is often used humorously of a demand for subscriptions, etc. (1844.)

Bain. See Bagnio.

Bairn's-bed. The womb. (1549.)

Bait. 1. Anger, a wax (q.v.). 2. A fee, a refresher (q.v.). (1603.) *Welsh* (or *Scotch*) *bait*, a rest given to a horse at the top of a hill, a breather (q.v.). (1662.)

Baiting-stock. A laughing-stock. (1630.)

Baitland. An old word, formerly used to signify a port where refreshments could be procured. (1725.)

Bake (Winchester). To rest, to sit (or lie) at ease. Hence *baker*, (1) a cushion, and (2) anything to sit (or kneel) upon, as a blotting-book, etc. [Bakers were of two kinds: that used in College was large, oblong and green; whilst the Commoners' baker was thin, narrow, much smaller, and red.] Whence *baker-layer* (obs.), a Junior who carried a Præfect's green baker in and out of Hall at meal-times. Also *bakester* (obs.), a sluggard; *baking-leave* (obs.), (1) permission to bake (spec. on a kind of sofa) in a study in Commoners or in a Scob-place (q.v.) in College, and (2) leave to sit in another's toys (q.v.); *baking-place*, any place in which to bake, or in connection with which baking leave was given. [North. dial.: *beek* (or *beak*), to expose oneself to the genial warmth of sun, fire, etc., to bask. *Jamieson: beik, beke, beek*, to bask.] (1230.) Phrases: *To bake one's bread*, to punish (q.v.), to do for (q.v.); As they brew, so let them *bake* (prov. saying), Let them go on as they have begun; I must go and *bake* some bread (a jocular excuse for departure) (1380.)

Baked. Collapsed, exhausted, done up; e.g. toward the end of the course the crew were regularly baked. *Half-* (or *dough-*) *baked*, inconclusive, imperfect. Also dull-witted, soft (q.v.): see Half-baked. (1502.)

Baker. 1. Bakers, against whom severe penalties for impurity of bread or shortness of weight were enacted from very early times, have been the subject of much colloquial sarcasm. 'I feare we parte not yéet, Quoth the baker to the pylorie.' (1562.) They say the owl was a baker's daughter. (1602.) Three dear years will raise a baker's daughter to a portion; 'Tis not the smallness of the bread, but the knavery of the baker; Take all, and pay the baker; Pull devil, pull baker. 2. A loafer. [The word is generally attributed to Baron de Mandat Grancey, who, in *Cowboys and Colonels*, innocently translated the word loafer as baker.] *To spell baker*, to attempt a difficult task. [In old spelling books Baker was often the first word of two syllables to which a child came when learning to spell.]

Baker-kneed (or **Baker-legged**). Knock-kneed, bow-legged, effeminate (*Grose*). (1607.)

Baker's Dozen (or **Bargain**). 1. Thirteen counted as twelve: sometimes fourteen (*Grose* and *Bee*). Hence 2. good measure: e.g. *To give a man a baker's dozen*, to trounce him well. Also Brown-dozen (q.v.), Devil's-dozen (cf. Baker 1, and Fr., *boulanger*, devil), and Round-dozen (see Round). [Bakers were (and are) liable to heavy penalties for deficiency in the weights of loaves: these were fixed for every price from eighteenpence down to twopence, but penny loaves or rolls were not specified in the statute. They, therefore, to be on the safe side, gave, for a dozen of bread, an additional loaf, known as inbread. A similar custom was formerly observed with regard to coal, and publishers nowadays reckon thirteen copies of a book as twelve. (1596.)

Baker's Light Bobs. The 10th Hussars.

Bakes. 1. A schoolboy. 2. An original stake: chiefly schoolboys': e.g. When I get my bakes back I shall stop playing. [*Bartlett*: in reference possibly to a baker not always getting his bake safely out of the oven.]

Bakester, Baking-leave, Baking-place, etc. See Bake.

Balaam. Miscellaneous paragraphs for filling up a column of type, padding (q.v.); applied either to MS. copy or stereo. Hence *Balaam-box* (or *-basket*), (1) a receptacle for such matter, and (2) a waste-paper basket. [*Webster*: a cant term; popularised by *Blackwood's Mag*. See Numbers xxii. 30.] (1822.)

Balaclava-day. A soldier's pay day. [Balaclava in 1854-6 was a base of supply for English troops: as pay was drawn, the men went down to make their purchases.]

Balance. The remainder, the rest: cf. lave (Scots) and shank (as in the shank of the evening). (1846.)

Balbus. A Latin prose composition. [From the frequency with which Balbus is mentioned in Arnold's *Latin Prose Composition*.]

Baldcoot. 1. A term of contempt: cf. Baldhead. [The frontal plate of the coot is destitute of feathers.] Hence *bald as a coot*, as bald as may be. [*Tyndale, Works* (1530), ii. 224, s.v.]. 2. A young man who parts with his blunt freely at gambling, and is rooked; older persons also stay and get plucked sometimes, until they have not a feather to fly with. Such men, after the plucking, become bald-coots (*Bee*).

Balderdash. (1) Froth or frothy liquid; (2) a jumble of liquors (*B. E.* and *Grose*): e.g. brandy (or milk) and beer, milk and rum, etc.: also as verb, to dash with another liquid, and hence to adulterate (*Grose*); (3) a jumble of words, nonsense, trash; and (4) lewd conversation (*Grose*), obscenity, scurrility. [*O. E. D.*: From the evidence at present the inference is that the current sense was transferred .... with the notion of frothy talk. *Century*: Of obscure origin, apparently dial. or slang.] (1598.)

Bald-face. New whisky: warranted to kill at forty rods. *Baldfaced*, neat (q.v.).

Bald-faced Shirt. A white shirt: cf. Boiled shirt.

Bald-faced Stag. A bald-headed man, bladder of lard.

Baldhead (or **Pate**). A term of contempt: also Baldy. [Of Biblical origin.] Hence *baltitude*, a state of baldness; *his balditude*, a mock title; and *baldheaded-row*, the first row of stalls at theatres, especially at leg-shops (q.v.). (1535.)

Baldheaded. Eagerly; with might and main. [*Bartlett*: as when one rushes out without his hat. (1848.) *To snatch baldheaded*, to defeat a person in a street fight.

Baldober (or **Baldower**). A leader, a spokesman [Ger.].

Bald-rib. A lean person, a walking-skeleton (q.v.). (1621.)

Balductum. Nonsense, rubbish: as adj., affected, trashy. (1577.)

Balfour's Maiden. A covered battering-ram: used by the Royal Irish Constabularly in carrying out evictions in Ireland (1888-89.)

Ball. 1. The head: also Ball in the hood, Billiard-ball, etc. (1300.) 2. A ration, food or drink. 3. (Winchester) in pl., a Junior in College: his duty is to collect footballs from lockers in school and take them through to the Ball-keeper in Commoners to be blown or repaired, and who, for service in looking after cricket and footballs, is exempted from kicking in (q.v.) and watching out (q.v.). Phrases. *To catch* (or *take*) *the ball before the bound*, to anticipate; *to have the ball at one's foot* (or *before one*), to have in one's power (or at one's finger-ends); *to open the ball*, to lead off, make a start; *to keep the ball rolling* (or *keep up the ball*), to prevent a matter flagging or hanging fire; *to take up the ball*, to take one's turn: whence the *ball's with you*, you're next. (1589.) *Call the ball* (Stonyhurst), the Foul! of Association football. *Three brass* (or *golden*) *balls*: see Three Balls.

Ballad-basket. A street singer: see Street pitcher: Fr., *braillard.*

Ballad-monger. A ballad-maker: in contempt: hence Ballad-mongering. (1596.)

Ballahou. A term of derision applied to an ill-conditioned slovenly ship (*Century*); a West Indian clipper schooner: apparently she may also be a brig to judge from *The Cruise of the Midge* (*Clark Russell*).

Ballambangjang. *The Straits of Ballambangjang*, though unnoticed by geographers, are frequently mentioned in sailors' yarns as being so narrow, and the rocks on each side so crowded with trees inhabited by monkeys, that the ship's yards cannot be squared, on account of the monkeys' tails getting jammed into, and choking up, the brace blocks (*Hotten*).

Ballast. Money: generic: see Rhino. Hence *well-ballasted*, rich.

Ball Face. A white man [*Bartlett*: applied at Salem, Mass., 1810-1820].

Ball-keeper. See Ball, subs.

Ball of Fire. A glass of cheap brandy (*Grose.*)

Ball of Honour. See Beggar's Ace.

Ball of Wax. A snob, or shoemaker.

Balloon. To brag, to gas (q.v.). Also *balloonacy* (cf. lunacy), a mania for ballooning; *balloonatic* (cf. lunatic), balloon-mad; *ballooning*, inflating prices by fictitious means, and as adj., high falutin' (q.v.). (1826.)

Ballot-box Stuffing. Tampering with election returns; a box is constructed with false bottom and compartments so as to permit spurious ballots to be introduced by the teller in charge. The most outrageous frauds have been committed by this means (*Bartlett*).

Ball's-bull. *Like Ball's bull*, said of a person with no ear for music: Ball's bull had so little that he kicked the fiddler over the bridge (*Halliwell*).

Bally. A generic intensive: very, great, excessive. [A comparatively recent coinage, it is said, of *The Sporting Times* from ballyhooly.]

Ballyhack. *Go to ballyhack*, Get along.

Ballyrag. See Bullyrag.

Balm. A lie (*Duncombe*).

Balmy. *The balmy*, sleep: as adj., sleepy: cf. balmy slumbers (*Shakespeare*) and balmy sleep (*Young*). *To have a doze* (or *wink*) *of the balmy*, to go to sleep: see Bedfordshire and Barmy.

Balsam. Generic for money (*Grose* and *Bee*): see Rhino.

Bam (or **Bamboozle**). A hoax, cheat: as verb (*bamboo, boozle*, or *bambooze*), to victimize, outwit, mystify or deceive (*Grose*): also (*Halliwell*) to threaten: cf. hum from humbug, [*Swift* (1710), *Tatler*, Refinements of Twenty Years Past: Certain words such as banter, bamboozle . . . now struggling for the vogue; *Johnson* (1755): a cant word; *Boucher* (1833): has long . . . had a place in the gypsy or canting dictionaries; *O. E. D.*: probably of cant origin; *Century*: a slang word of no definite origin.] Whence numerous combinations, colloquialisms and phrases: e.g. *to bamboozle away*, to get rid of speciously; *to bamboozle into*, to persuade artfully; *to bamboozle out of*, to obtain by trick; *bamboozled*, mystified, tricked; *bamboozlement*, tricky deception; *bamboozler*, a mystifier; *bambost*, deceptive humbug; *to bamblustercate*, to bluster, embarrass, or confuse: cf. conglomerate and comflogisticate; *bamsquabbled* (or *bumsquabbled*), discomfited, defeated squelched. See Banter. (1703.)

Banaghan. *He beats Banaghan*, an Irish saying of one who tells travellers' tales. [Banaghan (*Grose*) was a minstrel famous for dealing in the marvellous.]

Banagher. To bang.

Bananaland, Bananalander. Queensland, a native of Queensland. A large portion of Queensland lies within the tropics to which the banana (*Musa sapientum*) is indigenous.]

Banbury. The inhabitants of this Oxfordshire town (now noted for its cakes) seem to have been the subjects of ridicule and sarcasm from very early times; chiefly on account of their zeal for the Puritan cause. Thus *Banbury-man* (*-blood* or *-saint*), a hypocrite (cf. popular saying A Banbury man will hang his cat on Monday for catching mice on Sunday); *Banbury-wife*, a whore; *Banbury-story* (or *Banbury tale of a cock-and-a-bull*), an extremely improbable yarn (*Grose*), silly chat (*B. E.*); *Banbury-gloss*, a specious reading; *Banbury-vapours*, the stock-in-trade of a Puritan agitator; *Banbury-cheese*, the thinnest of poor cheese (*Heywood*: I never saw Banbury cheese thick enough): hence a term of contempt. Also proverbs (*Howell*, 1660): Like Banbury tinkers, who in stopping one hole make two; As wise as the mayor of Banbury, who would prove that Henry III. was before Henry II. (1535.)

Banco. (Charterhouse).—Evening preparation at House, under the superintendence of a monitor; the Winchester toy-time (q.v.). [See *Farmer: Public School Word Book.*]

Banco-steerer. See Bunco-steerer.

Band. *Our Lady's bands*, accouchement, confinement (an old abstract meaning.) (1495.) See Banded.

Bandanna. Orig. a silk handkerchief with white, yellow, or other coloured spots on a dark ground. Also (loosely) a handkerchief of any kind: see Wipe. (1752.)

Bandbox (or **Bandboxical**). (1) Precisely neat, fussy, finical; and (2) frail or small (as is a bandbox): e.g. a bandbox thing; She's just come out of a bandbox (or glass case); You ought to be put in a bandbox (of anyone over particular). See Bandog. (1774.)

Banded. Hungry; also *to wear the bands* (*Grose* and *Vaux*).

Bandero. Widows' weeds. [Cf. *Littré: bandeau, anciennement, coiffure des veuves; Kennett: bandore* a widow's veil, and *B. E.*, a widow's mourning Peak; Eng., *banderol*, a streamer carried on the shaft of a lance near the head.]

Bandog. 1. A bailiff, or his Follower, a Sergeant, or his Yeoman (*B. E.* and *Grose*). [Properly a bound-dog, because ferocious; hence a mastiff or bloodhound.] *To speak like a bandog* (or *bandog and bedlam*), to rave, to bluster. (1600.) 2. A bandbox (*Grose*).

B. and S. Brandy and Soda. (1868.)

Bandy. See Bender.

Bandy-legged. Crooked (*B. E.*) [The earliest quot. in *O. E. D.* is dated 1787; but the word did not come into general use until the second quarter of the eighteenth century.]

Bang. 1. Generic for energy and dash: a blow, thump, sudden noise, go (q.v.). As verb, to drub (*B. E.* and *Grose*), strike, explode, or shut with violence. Hence *to bang it out* (or *about*), to come to blows (or fisticuffs), fight it out; *to bang* (slam) *a door; to bang* (fire) *a gun; to bang* (play loudly) *a piano; to bang into one's head*, to convince by force; *to bang against*, to bump (or thump); *to bang away at*, to make a violent and continuous noise; *to bang out*, to go with a flourish; *to bang up*, to suddenly throw oneself upon, to spring up; *bang* (or *bang off*), at once, abruptly; e.g. *bang* went saxpence; *in a bang*, in a hurry; *bang out*, completely; *banging*, violent, noisy, and as subs. a drubbing: see Wipe. 2. A fringe of hair (usually curled or frizzed) cut squarely across the forehead. As verb, to cut (or wear) the hair in this fashion: also *bang tail*, *bang-tailed*, and *bang-tail muster* (of horses, cattle, etc.) Every third or fourth year on a cattle station, they have what is called a *bang tail muster*; that is to say, all the cattle are brought into the yards, and have the long hairs at the end of the tail cut off square, with knives or sheep-shears: the object of it is . . . to find out the actual number of cattle on the run, to compare with the number entered on the station books (*Tyrwhitt*). As verb (1) to excel, surpass, beat: cf. (Irish) that *bangs* Bannagher and Bannagher *bangs* the world; (2) to outwit, puzzle, deceive: *banging* great, large, thumping (q.v.): e.g. a banging boy, wench, lie, etc.; *banger*, anything exceptional; *bang-up*, fine, first-rate, of the best (the root idea is completeness combined with energy and dash); occasionally (as verb), to smarten up; (3) to offer stock loudly with the intention of lowering the price (Stock Exchange). *To be banged up to the eyes*, to be drunk: see Screwed *to bang* (or *beat*) *the hoof*: see Hoof.

Bang-beggar. 1. A stout cudgel. 2. A constable or beadle. 3. A vagabond: A term of reproach.

Banger. A heavy cane, a bludgeon: one of the Yale vocables (*Hall*). *The Bangers,* the First Life Guards.

Bang-pitcher. A tippler: see Lushington. Hence *to bang the pitcher,* to guzzle: see Lush.

Bangster. 1. A bully, braggart. As adj. turbulent. *Bangstry,* violence. 2. A victor, winner: cf. bang, verb. 3. A wanton.

Bangstraw. A thresher: also applied to all servants of a farmer (*Grose*).

Bang-tail. See Bang.

Bangy (Winchester College). Brown sugar. As adj., brown. Hence *bangy bags* (or *bangies*), brown-coloured trousers: the strong objection to these in former times probably arose from Tony Lumpkin coming to school in corduroys (*Wrench*). *Bangy-gate* (1) a brown gate leading from Grass Court to Sick House Meads; and (2) a gate by Racquet Court into Kingsgate Street.

Banian (or **Banyan**)**-day.** One day (originally two) in the week on which, in the Royal Navy, meat was withheld from the crews; hence, a bad day, a disagreeable day: in reference to the Banian's abstinence from flesh.

Banister. A balustrade: a corruption of baluster condemned by Nicholson as improper, by Stuart and Gwilt (*Dict. Archit.* 1830) as vulgar, the term had already taken literary rank, and has now acquired general acceptance.

Banjo. A bed-pan, *fiddle* (q.v.), *slipper* (q.v.).

Bank. 1. A lump sum, the total amount possessed: e.g. How's the bank? Not very strong, about one and a buck. As verb, (1) to steal, make sure of: e.g. Bank the rags, Take the notes; (2) to place in safety; and (3) to share the booty, to nap the regulars (q.v.). 2. Spec. *The Bank,* i.e. Millbank Prison; the site is now (1903) occupied by an Art Gallery.

Banker. 1. A horse, good at jumping on and off banks too high to be cleared. 2. In pl., clumsy boots and shoes, beetle-crushers (q.v.): see Trotter-cases.

Bankrupt-cart. A one-horse chaise—of a Sunday (*Bee*): said to be so called by a Lord Chief Justice through their being so frequently used on Sunday jaunts by extravagant shopkeepers and tradesmen (*Grose*).

Bankruptcy List. *To be put on the bankruptcy list,* to be completely knocked out of time (*Grose*).

Bank-shaving. Usury: before banks were regulated by Act of Congress, the least reputable purchased notes of hand and similar documents at enormously usurious rates of discount: he who thus raised the wind was said to *get his paper shaved.*

Bankside-lady (or **wench**). In 15th to 17th c. a harlot: in old London the neighbourhood of the theatres was likewise the quarter of the stews (q.v.)—notably Bankside, Southwark, and in later days, Covent Garden and Drury Lane.

Bank-sneak. A bank thief (q.v.).

Banner. Money paid for board and lodging: the origin of the term is unknown.

Bannister. A traveller in distress: the term occurs in the ancient accounts of the parish of Chudleigh, co. Devon.

Banquet. *Running banquet,* a snack, slight repast between meals; *running banquet between beadles,* a whipping.

Banquet-beagle. A glutton, smell-feast (q.v.).

Banter. Nonsense, raillery, pleasantry, a jest or matter of jest. As verb, with numerous derivatives: e.g. *banterer, banteree, bantering, bantery,* etc. Swift says the word was First borrowed from the bullies in White Friars, then it fell among the footmen, and at last retired to the pedants (*Tale of a Tub,* 1710; of unknown etymology: it is doubtful whether the verb or the sb. was the earlier: existing evidence is in favour of the verb: the sb. was treated as slang in 1688 (*O. E. D.*). 2. A challenge to a race, shooting-match, etc. (*Bartlett,* 1484). Also as verb.

Bant. Orig. to follow the dietary prescribed by Dr. Banting for corpulence; hence to diet oneself, train.

Bantling. A bastard: cf. brat; hence (modern), child (*B. E., Grose*): spec. a young or undersized child; usually in depreciation: with great probability, a corruption of Ger. *bänkling,* bastard, from *bank,* bench, i.e. a child begotten on a bench and not in the marriage-bed (*Mahn*).

Banty. Saucy, impudent.

Banyan-day. See Banian-day.

Baptised. Mixed with water, christened (q.v.) (*Grose, Bee*): spec. of spirits when not taken neat (q.v.): Fr., *chrétien, baptisé.*

Baptist. A pickpocket caught and ducked (*Bee*).

Bar. As verb and preposition *bar*, of respectable lineage, is now more or less colloquial. 1. Except, excluding, save, but for: mostly used in racing, e.g. four to one bar one, four to one on the field, that is on all the horses entered excepting only the favourite. 2. To exclude from consideration, take exception to. 3. To stop, cease. 4. To frequent drinking-bars, to tipple. *To bar too much*, to get drunk: see Screwed.

Barabbas. A publisher. [Usually, but erroneously, attributed to Lord Byron, who is said to have applied it to John Murray the elder, having sent him a Bible in which the famous passage in John xviii., 40, was altered to Now Barabbas was a publisher. The reigning John Murray (1904) writes: I have it on the authority of my father, who was alive during all the time of his father's dealings with Byron, that there is not a word of truth in any detail of the story. The joke was in reality made by Thomas Campbell in regard to another publisher, the Mr Longman of his day].

Baragan-tailor. A rough-working tailor.

Barathrum. An extortioner, a glutton.

Barb. To shave, trim the beard: also *to barber*: cf. Butch. 2. To clip gold, sweat (q.v.): also applied to clipping wool, cloth, etc.

Barbadoes. To transport (as a convict): Barbadoes was formerly a penal settlement.

Barbar. (Durham School). A candidate for scholarship hailing from another school: i.e. *barbar*-ian, stranger.

Barber. 1. A thick fagot or bough: one was included in each bundle of firewood. 2. Any large piece of timber. 3. A generic reproach: thus, *barber's-block* (*clerk*, or *barber-monger*), a fop, one who spends much time in barbers' shops; spec. (mechanics) an over-dressed shopman or clerk; *barber's cat*, a weak, sickly-looking person; *barber's-chair*, a strumpet (because common to all comers); *barber's-music*, rough music. Also (proverbial) Nostrils wider than barbers' basins. As verb, to work off an imposition by deputy: also *barberise*: tradition says that a learned barber, was at one time employed as a scapegoat in working off this species of punishment. 3. See *Barb* and *barberise.* That's the barber, that's well done; It's all O.K. (q.v.): a street catch-phrase about the year 1760 (*Grose*).

Barberize. To shave, cut hair, play the barber: cf. *Barb.*

Barber's-knock. A double knock: the first hard, and the second soft as if by accident.

Bard. A term of contempt: in early Lowland Scotch used for a strolling musician or minstrel, into which the Celtic bard had degenerated, and against whom many laws were enacted; in 16th cent., a term of contempt, but idealised by Scott to mean an epic poet, a singer.

Bar'd cater tra. False dice: so constructed that the *quatre* and *trois* were seldom cast: cf. *fullams, high-men, low-men,* etc.

Bare-board. *To go on bare-board,* to play without putting down the stake.

Bare-bones. A lean person, walking skeleton, rack of bones: also (in Commonwealth times) a term of contempt.

Bare-footed. Variously applied: e.g. *to take tea barefooted,* to dispense with sugar and milk; *to take a dram barefooted,* to drink spirits neat (q.v.), or naked (q.v.); *barefooted on the top of the head,* bald.

Bargain. Subs. (old).—A catch, sell (q.v.). Hence, *to sell a bargain,* to humbug, hoax, banter: a species of low wit, of ancient usage, but much in vogue about the latter end of the reign of Queen Anne. Swift remarks that, The maids of honour often amused themselves with it. *Dutch* (or *wet*) *bargain,* a deal clinched by a drink; *Dutch-bargain* also means a deal the advantage of which is all on one side. Also in various proverbial phrases: thus, To make the best of a bad bargain (*Ray*); At a great bargain make a pause; More words than one go to a bargain; A good bargain is a pick-purse (i.e. tempts people to buy what they need not).

Barge. 1. A fat, heavy person; one broad in the beam: in contempt. 2. (Printers) (*a*) A case unduly loaded with stamps not in frequent request with a shortness of those most in use. Also (*b*) a card or small box for spaces: used while correcting away from case. 3. (Sherborne School). Small cricket: played against a wall with a stump for bat. As verb, to abuse, slang; cf. Bullyrag. Also (Charterhouse and Uppingham) to hustle, mob up, brick.

Bargee. A barge-man or barger (the dictionary terms): Cambridge wit (*Grose*).

Barge-pole (Winchester). A large stick of thick bough, of which there was one in each fagot: also any large piece of wood: cf. Barber. *Not fit to be touched with the end of a barge-pole* (*a pair of tongs*, etc.), unapproachable through filth, disease, prejudice, or the like.

Bark. 1. A native of Ireland: hence *Barkshire*, Ireland. 2. The skin. As verb, to abrade (scrape, or rub off) the skin, bruise. 3. A cough: spec. when persistent and hacking: persons thus troubled are said to Have been to Barking Creek (or Barkshire). As verb, to cough incessantly. *Barker*, one with a churchyard cough (q.v.) or notice to quit (q.v.). 4. See Barker. Phrases: *To bark against* (or *at*) *the moon* (see Barker); *to take the bark off*, to reduce in value, rub the gilt off; *the word with the bark on it*, without circumlocution, no mincing matters, the straight-tip (q.v.); *between the bark and the wood* (or *tree*) (of a well-adjusted bargain where neither party has the advantage (*Halliwell*); *to bark through the fence*, to take advantage of adventitious shelter or protection to say or do that which would otherwise entail unpleasant consequences; *to bark up the wrong tree*, to blunder, to mistake one's object or the right course to pursue, to get the wrong sow by the ear; *to go between bark and tree*, to meddle: spec. in family matters; *the bark is worse than the bite* (of one who threatens but fails to do as he vows).

Barker. 1. A salesman's servant that walks before the shop, and cries, Cloaks, Coats, or Gowns, what d'ye lack, sir? (*B. E.*). 2. A tout of any description. Fr., *aboyeur*. 3. A boy attending a drover, helping him to drive his sheep by means of imitating the bark of a dog. 4. A noisy (or assertive) disputant, spouting demagogue, querulous fault-finder. As verb, to clamour, menace, abuse. 5. (Univ.), a big swell (i.e. one asserting himself or putting on side (q.v.) 6. (American) A noisy coward, blatant bully, lamb (q.v.). 7. Whence *to bark at* (or *against*) *the moon*, to clamour uselessly, agitate to no effect, labour in vain: cf. proverb, Barking dogs bite not. 8. Generic for firearms, spec. (in navy), a duelling pistol; also a lower deck gun. *Barking iron* is historically the older term (*Grose*). English synonyms, blue lightning, dag, meat-in-the-pot, my unconverted friend, one-eyed scribe, pop, peacemaker, whistler.

Barkey. Any kind of vessel: an endearment. [Bark for vessel is never used by sailors (*Clark Russell*).]

Barla-fumble! A call for truce or quarter: also *barley*.

Barley. In general colloquial use: thus, *oil of barley* (or *barley-bree*, *-broth*, *-juice*, *-water*, or *-wine*), (1) strong ale, and (2) whisky (*Grose*); *barley-island*, an alehouse; *John Barley* (or *Barleycorn*), the personification of malt liquor: cf. proverb, Sir John Barleycorn's the strongest knight; *barley-cap*, a tippler; *barley-mood* (or *sick*) (1) drunk; and (2) ill-humour caused by tippling; also *to have* (or *wear*) *a barley-hat* (*-cap*, or *-hood*) (1500).

Barley-bun gentleman. A gent. (although rich) yet lives with barley bread, and otherwise barely and hardly (*Minsheu*).

Barley-straw. A trifle (1721).

Barmecide. Usually in the phrase a *Barmecide feast*, short commons; lenten entertainment. [From the *Arabian Nights* story of a prince of that name who put a series of empty dishes before a beggar pretending that they formed a sumptuous repast, the beggar facetiously assenting.] Also as adj.

Barmy (Balmy). Excited, flighty, empty-headed (i.e. full of nothing but froth); *barmy-brained*, crazy; *barmy-froth*, a simpleton, muddle-head; *to put on the balmy stick* (prison), to feign madness. English synonyms: to be dotty, off one's chump, sappy, spoony, touched, wrong in the upper storey, half-baked, have a screw loose, a bee in one's bonnet, no milk in the cocoa-nut, rats in the upper storey (or cock-loft), a tile (screw or slate) loose.

Barn. See Parson's barn.

Barnaby. *To dance Barnaby*, to move expeditiously, irregularly (*Grose*): an old dance to a quick movement was so named. *Barnaby-bright* (or *Long Barnaby*), St. Barnabas's Day, 11th June, O.S.: cf. old rhyme—

Barnaby Bright! Barnaby Bright:
The longest day and the shortest night.

Barnacle. 1. A close companion, a follower that will not be dismissed, a leech; hence a decoy swindler (1591): cf. Barnard. 2. One that speaketh through the nose (*Percivall*). 3. A good job, or snack easily got (*B. E.*). 4. A gratuity given to grooms by the buyers and sellers of horses (*B. E.*). 5. In pl., spectacles, bossers (q.v.), goggles (q.v.): Fr., *persiennes*; formerly applied only to spectacles with side-pieces of coloured glass, and used more as protectors from wind, dust, etc., than as an aid to the sight (1571). 6. A brake for unruly horses' noses (*B. E.*). 7. The irons felons wear in gaol (*B. E.*).

Barnard. A sharper's confederate; a decoy: cf. Barnacle. (1532.)

Barnburner. A member of the radical section of the Democratic party (U.S.A.). (1848.)

Barndoor. 1. A target too large to be easily missed (1547): hence *barn-door practice*, a battue: the quarry is driven within a radius from which it is impossible for it to escape; 2. applied at cricket to a player who blocks every ball.

Barndoor-savage. A country yokel, farm-labourer, clodhopper.

Barnet! (Christ's Hospital: obsolete). Nonsense! humbug!

Barnet-fair (or Barnet). The hair.

Barney. 1. Generic for humbug or deceit: spec. (sporting) an unfair competition of any kind—a race, prize fight, or game; the term is never applied to a fair contest; hence a free fight, or rough and tumble, in which the rules of the game are not too strictly observed. 2. A spree, lark (q.v.), picnic (q.v.). 3. A bad recitation (Harvard College, *c.* 1810). As verb, to recite badly.

Barn-mouse. *Bitten by a barn-mouse*, tipsy, screwed (q.v.): see Barley (*Grose*).

Barn-stormer. A strolling player: spec. a mouthing actor (see quot. 1886): also *barnstorming*.

Barnumese. The high-faluting (q.v.) language so lavishly used by the late P. T. Barnum in advertising the greatest show on earth, exaggeration of style: cf. Telegraphese: hence *to barnumize* (1) to exhibit with a lavish display of puffing advertisement; and (2) to talk of (or assert) oneself bombastically in the style of Barnum.

Baronet. A sirloin of beef: cf. Baron. (1749.)

Barrack. To jeer at opponents, interrupt noisily, make a disturbance; also with for, to support as a partisan, generally with clamour: an Australian football term dating from about 1880: the verb has been ruled unparliamentary by the Speaker in the Victorian Legislative Assembly, but it is in very common colloquial use: it is from the aboriginal word *borak* (q.v.), and the sense of jeering is earlier than that of supporting, but jeering at one side is akin to cheering for the other (*Morris*). Hence *barracking* and *barracker*.

Barrack- (or Garrison) -hack. 1. A young woman attending garrison balls year after year. 2. A soldiers' trull: see Hackney.

Barred-gown. An officer of the law; spec. a judge: broad stripes or bars of gold lace run across the front of the gown.

Barrel. 1. A confirmed tippler: also *beer-barrel*; whence *barrel-house* (American), a low groggery; *barrel-fever*, drunkenness (or disease caused by tippling): see Gallon-distemper; *barrel-boarder*, a bar loafer. 2. Money used in a political campaign (American politics); spec. that expended for corrupt purposes: cf. Boodle; *barrel-campaign*, an election in which bribery is a leading feature: a wealthy candidate for office (*c.* 1876) is said to have remarked, Let the boys know that there's a *bar'l* o' money ready for 'em, or words to that effect. *Never* (or *the devil*) *a barrel the better herring*, much like, not a pin to choose between them, six of one and half a dozen of the other. (1542).

Barrel-bellied. Well-rounded in stomach, corpulent. (1694.)

Barrell's Blues. The Fourth Foot, now The King's Own (Royal Lancashire Regiment): from its facings and Colonel's name from 1734 to 1739.

Barres. Money lost at play, but not paid: a corruption of barrace, an obsolete plural of bar.

Barrikin. Gibberish, jargon, jumble of words. (1851.)

Barring Out. A half serious but oftentimes jocular rebellion of schoolboys against their schoolmaster. [*Halliwell.*—An ancient custom at schools: the boys, a few days before the holidays, barricade the school room from the master, and stipulate for the discipline of the next half year. According to Dr. Johnson, Addison, in 1683, was the leader in an affair of this kind at Lichfield.]

Barrow-bunter. A barrow-woman, a female costermonger. (1771.)

Barrow-man. A man under sentence of transportation.

Barrow-tram. A raw-boned person: properly the shaft of a wheelbarrow.

Barter (Winchester College). A half volley: as verb, to hit hard. [From the Warden of that name famous for disposing of them.] *Hitting barters,* practice catching, full pitches hit from the middle of Turf towards Ball-Court for catching practice towards the end of Long Meads.

Bartholomew Baby. 1. A gaudily dressed doll, such as appears to have been commonly sold at Bartholomew Fair. 2. A person gaudily dressed.

Bartholomew-pig. Roasted pigs were formerly among the chief attractions of Bartholomew Fair, West Smithfield, London: they were sold piping hot, in booths and on stalls, and ostentatiously displayed, to excite the appetite of passengers. Hence a Bartholomew-pig became a common subject of allusion: the Puritan railed against it.

Barts. St. Bartholomew Hospital.

Bash. To beat, thrash, crush out of shape. *Bashing,* a flogging, spec. with the cat; *basher* (1) a rough; and (2) a prize-fighter.

Bashaw. 1. A pasha. 2. A great (or imperious) man, grandee. (1593.)

Bashi-Bazouk. A ruffian: used loosely as a more or less mild term of opprobrium; also applied to anything *bizarre* in character or composition: the expression came into vogue during the period when the Bulgarian atrocities were electrifying the world by their barbarous cruelty.

Bash-rag. A ragamuffin.

Basil. A fetter: usually fastened on the ankle of one leg only. (1592.)

Basin. A schooner (q.v.).

Basket. An exclamation frequently made use of in cockpits where persons, unable to pay their losings, are adjudged to be put into a basket suspended over the pit, there to remain till the sport is concluded (*Grose*). *To go to the basket,* to go to prison: poor prisoners in public gaols were mainly dependent on the almsbasket for sustenance (1632); *to pin the basket,* to conclude a matter; *to be left in the basket,* to remain unchosen; left to the last; *the pick of the basket,* the best, choicest; *to bring to the basket,* to reduce to poverty; *to leave in the basket,* to leave in the lurch.

Basket-scrambler. One living on charity, in receipt of alms.

Bass. A familiar abbreviation for Bass' ale, brewed at Burton-on-Trent.

Bass. A kiss: see Buss (1450). Also as verb.

Basta. It is enough! No more! No matter!

Baste. To thrash, beat soundly: cf. Anoint (1533). *Basting,* a cudgelling, tanning (q.v.).

Baster. 1. A house thief (q.v.). 2. A stick, cudgel. 3. A heavy blow. (1726.)

Bastile. A workhouse. 2. A prison, steel (q.v.).

Bat. 1. A prostitute: cf. Fly-by-night: Fr. *hirondelle de nuit.* 2. A drunken frolic: see Batter. 3. Pace, speed, rate, manner, style: e.g. going off at a lively bat. *Off one's own bat,* by oneself, through one's own exertions, unaided (1845); *to bat the eyes,* (1) to blink, wink; (2) to look on, watch; of a bystander not playing; *to carry out one's bat,* to outlast all opponents, secure result aimed at.

Batch. To live single: of both sexes: a corruption of 'batchelor.'

Batchelor's Son. A bastard.

Bate. *Bate me an ace, quoth Bolton,* an expression of credulity (1570), Excuse me!

Bates' Farm (or Garden). Coldbath Fields prison: from a warder of that name and a certain appropriateness in the initials, C.B.F., the prison initials, and used as a stamp, Charley Bates' farm. *To feed the chickens on Charley Bates' Farm*, to be put to the treadmill.

Bat-fowler. A swindler, sharper, victimiser of the unwary. *Bat-fowling*, swindling, rookery (1602).

Bath. *Go to Bath*, a contemptuous injunction to be off, Go to Blazes, Hull, Halifax—anywhere: the injunction was intensified by, 'and get your head shaved,' a suggestion of craziness. *To go to Bath*, to go begging: Bath in the latter days of the 17th century was infested with the cadging fraternity.

Bathing Machine. A 10-ton brig.

Batie-bum (or **Batie-bummil**). A useless bungler, slowcoach, inactive helpless fellow (1550),

Bat-mugger (Winchester College). A wooden instrument used for rubbing oil into cricket bats.

Bats. A pair of bad or old boots. Elworthy, in *West Somerset Words*, gives this as a heavy laced boot with hobnails.

Bats Down. How many bats down? i.e. how many wickets have fallen?

Battels. The weekly bills of students at Oxford. Dr. Murray says much depends on the original sense at Oxford: if this was food, provisions, it is natural to connect it with battle, to feed, or receive nourishment. It appears that the word has apparently undergone progressive extensions of application, owing partly to changes in the internal economy of the colleges. Some Oxford men of a previous generation state that it was understood by them to apply to the buttery accounts alone, or even to the provisions ordered from the buttery, as distinct from the commons supplied from the kitchen: but this latter use is disavowed by others. Also as verb, and *Battler*, an Oxford student, formerly used in contradistinction to a gentleman commoner.

Batter. Wear and tear; e.g. the *batter* is more than can be stood for long. *To go on the batter*, to indulge in debauchery of any kind—drunkenness, prostitution, etc. *Battered*, drunk: see Screwed.

Batterfang. To beclaw, attack with fists and nails (1630).

Battle. See Battels. Phrases, *to give the battle*, to acknowledge defeat, grant the victory; *to have the battle*, to be the victor (1400); *half the battle* (of anything that contributes largely to success).

Battledore. *Not to know a B from a battledore*, to be utterly illiterate (1553); *to say B* (or *Bo!*) *to a battledore*, to open one's mouth, to speak: cf. Bo to a goose (1592).

Battledore-boy. An abecedarian.

Battle of the Nile. A hat, tile: see Cady.

Battle-royal. A general squabble, free fight: spec. of two termagant women (1672).

Battle-wright. A soldier.

Battlings. A weekly allowance of money: at Winchester it is 1s., while at Repton it is only 6d: also see Battels, *passim*.

Battner. An ox: The cove has hushed the *battner*, i.e. has killed the ox (*B. E.*).

Batty. Wages; perquisites: from batta, an extra pay given to soldiers while serving in India. Col. Yule says in Indian banking, batty means difference in exchange, discount on coins not current (or of short weight).

Baubee. See Bawbee.

Bauble (Bable or Bawbell). A toy, trinket, trifle (*B. E.*). *To deserve the baubel*, to be foolish: the baubel being the Court jester's baton surmounted by a carved head with ass' ears; *to give the baubel*, to befool.

Baulk. 1. A false report (especially that a master is at hand), which is sported (q.v.), not spread. 2. A false shot, a mistake.

Baum. To fawn, flatter, curry favour (*Hall*).

Bawbee (or Baubee). A halfpenny (*B. E.*).

Bawcock. A burlesque term of endearment, my good fellow, my fine fellow.

Bawdy-baskets. The twenty-third rank of Canters, with Pins, Tape, Obscene Books, etc., to sell, but live more by stealing (*B. E.*).

Bawdy-house-bottle. A very small one (*B. E.*).

Baw-waw. An exclamation of contempt (1599). As adj., contemptibly noisy.

Bayard of Ten Toes. 1. The feet, Shanks mare, Marrowbone stage

(1606). *To ride bayard of ten toes*, to go on foot; *as bold as blind Bayard* (of those who do not look before they leap); hence generic for blindness, ignorance, or recklessness. Bayard was a horse famous in old romances.

Bay State. The State of Massachusetts: orig. the Colony of Massachusetts Bay.

Bayswater Captain. A sponger (q.v.), adventurer: cf. Dryland sailor.

Bay Window. Fat, pregnant, lumpy (q.v.).

Beach-cadger. A beggar whose pitch is at watering-places and sea-ports.

Beach-comber. 1. A long wave rolling in from the ocean. 2. A settler on islands in the Pacific, living by means more or less reputable: comprising runaway seamen, and deserters from whalers. 3. A sea-shore loafer, one on the look-out for odd jobs. 4. A river boatman. 5. A wrecker, water-rat (q.v.).

Beach-tramper. A coastguardsman, shingle smasher.

Bead. *To draw a bead*, to attack an opponent by speech or otherwise: from backwoods parlance; *to raise a bead*, to bring to the point, ensure success: from brandy, rum, or other liquors, which will not raise a bead unless of the proper strength; *to bid a bead*, to offer prayer; *beads-bidding*, prayer; *to say* (*tell*, or *count*) *one's beads*, to say prayers; *to pray without one's beads*, to be out of one's reckoning.

Beadledom. Red-tapism, formality, stupid officiousness (1860).

Beady. Full of bubbles, frothy (1868).

Beagle. subs. (old). A spy; informer; man-hunter, policeman; also a general term of contempt (1559).

Beak. 1. A constable (also harmanbeck), policeman, guardian of the peace: as far as is known, this (as beck) is the oldest cant term for one of a class of men. In Harman's *Caveat* (1573), *harman beck* is explained as 'the counstable, harmans being the stockes.' 2. A magistrate: sometimes beak of the law. 3. The nose: see Conk (1598). 4. (Eton and Marlborough Schools). A master: 5. A thrust, poke (1592). *Birds of a beak*, birds of a feather (q.v.).

Beaker. A fowl: also *Beak*. *Cackling-cheat* (q.v.): Fr., *estable*, or *estaphle*

Beaker-hunter. A poultry thief: also *Beak-hunter*.

Beak-gander. A judge of the High Court of Justice.

Beaksman. A policeman.

Be-all and End-all. The whole, everything, the blooming lot (q.v.) (1606).

Beam. An authorised standard of criticism, manners, morals, etc. *To kick* (or *strike*) *the beam*, to be overpowered, in a tight place (or corner).

Beam Ends. *To be thrown on one's beam ends*, (1) to be in bad circumstances, at one's last shift, hard-up: a metaphor drawn from sea-faring life: a ship is said to be on her beam ends when on her side by stress of weather, or shifting of cargo, as to be submerged (1830), 2. Also, less figuratively, to be thrown to the ground, reduced to a sitting or lying posture.

Bean (or Bien). 1. A sovereign, 20s.: formerly a guinea: in America five-dollar gold pieces: see Half-bean and Haddock of beans: in old French cant, *biens* meant money or property: see Rhino. 2. pl., small coal (Newcastle). *Full of beans*, in good form (or condition), full of health, spirits, or capacity, as a horse after a good feed of beans. *To give beans*, to chastise, give a good drubbing. *Like beans*, in good form (style, time, etc.), with force: a general expression of approval and praise: cf. Like blazes, (bricks, or one o'clock). *Not to care* (or *be worth*) *a bean*, to hold in little esteem, think lightly of, be of little value: the allusion is to the small worth or value of a bean, or the black of a bean (1297). *Beany*, in good humour—a metaphor drawn from the stable. *To know beans*, to be well-informed, sharp and shrewd, within the charmed circle of the cultured elect, fully equipped in the upper storey. *To know how many blue beans make five white ones*, this is generally put in the form of a question, the answer to which is Five, if peeled, and those who fail to get tripped by the catch are said to know how many, etc.; in other words to be cute, knowing, wide awake. *To draw a bean*, to get elected: an allusion to the former use of beans in balloting; *to have the bean*, to be first and foremost; in reference to the custom of appointing as king of the company on Twelfth

Night, the man in whose portion of the cake the bean was found (1556). Also proverbial, Hunger maketh hard beans sweet; It is not for idleness that men sow beans in the wind (i.e. labour in vain); Every bean hath its black. *Three blue beans in a blue bladder*, noisy talk, clap-trap, froth (1600).

Bean Belly. A Leicestershire man: from a real or supposed fondness of the inhabitants of this county for beans.

Bean-feast. An annual feast given by employers to their work-people. The derivation is uncertain, and, at present, there is little evidence to go upon. Some have suggested its origin in the prominence of the bean goose, or even beans at these spreads; others refer it to the French *bien*, good, i.e. a good feast (by-the-bye, tailors call all good feeds bean-feasts); whilst others favour its derivation from the modern English *bene*, a request or solicitation, from the custom of collecting subscriptions to defray the cost: also called a wayzgoose (q.v.).

Bean-feaster. One who takes part in a bean-feast (q.v.).

Beano. The same as bean-feast (q.v.).

Bean-pole (stick, or wood). A lanky person, lamp-post (q.v.).

Bean Trap. A swell mobsman, stylish sharper.

Beany. Full of vigour, fresh, like a bean-fed horse.

Bear (Stock Exchange). 1. Applied, in the first instance, to stock sold by jobbers for delivery at a certain date, on the chance of prices falling in the meantime, thus allowing the seller to re-purchase at a profit. At first the phrase was probably To sell the bear-skin, the buyers of such bargains being called bear-skin jobbers, in allusion to the proverb, To sell the bear's skin before one has caught the bear. So far, the origin of the phrase seems pretty clear; of the date of its introduction, however, nothing is known. It was a common term in Stock Exchange circles, at the time of the bursting of the South Sea Bubble in 1720, but it does not seem to have become colloquial until much later. In these transactions no stock was delivered, the difference being settled according to the quotation of the day, as is the practice now in securities dealt with for the account. At present the term for such an arrangement is time-bargain. 2. Hence a dealer who speculates for a fall. The earliest instance noted of this transferred usage is of the date 1744. Fr., *baissier*: see Bull, Stag, and Lame Duck. 3. A rough, unmannerly, or uncouth person; hence the pupil of a private tutor, the latter being called a Bear-leader (q.v.); also called formerly *Bridled-bear*. *To play the bear*, to behave roughly and uncouthly (1579). As verb, to act as a *bear* (q.v.). *Are you there with your bears?* A greeting of surprise at the reappearance of anybody or anything; are you there again; What, again! so soon? The phrase is explained by Joe Miller, as the exclamation of a man who, not liking a sermon he had heard on Elisha and the bears, went next Sunday to another church, only to find the same preacher and the same discourse (1642). *To bear the bell* (coals, palm, etc.), see the nouns; *to bear low sail*, to demean oneself humbly (1300); *to bear a blow*, to strike; *to bear up*, to cheat, swindle: see Bonnet. *Bear a bob*, (1) lend a hand, look sharp! look alive! (2) To aid, to assist, to take part in anything.

Beard. *In spite of one's beard*, in opposition or defiance to a purpose; *to one's beard*, openly, to one's face; *to run in one's beard*, to oppose openly, face out; *to take by the beard*, to attack resolutely; *to make one's beard*, to outwit, delude; *to make one's beard without a razor*, to behead; *to put against the beard*, to taunt.

Bearded Cad (Winchester College). A porter, employed by the College to convey luggage from the railway station to the school: the term originated in an extremely hirsute individual who at one time acted in the capacity.

Bear-garden. A scene of strife and tumult.

Bear-garden Jaw, subs. (old). Rough, unmannerly speech; talk akin to that used in bear gardens and other places of low resort (*Grose*).

Be-argered. Drunk: see Screwed.

Bearing. Acting as a bear (q.v.); or using artifices to lower the price of stock to suit a bear account.

Bearings. *To bring one to one's bearings*, to bring one to reason, to act as a check.

Bear-leader. A travelling tutor.

Bear-play. Rough, tumultuous behaviour.

Bearskin-jobber. See Bear.

Beast. 1. Applied to anything unpleasant; or, to that which displeases; e.g. It's a perfect beast of a day, for it's an unpleasant day: see Beastly. 2. A new cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. 3. (Cambridge University). One who has left school and come up to Cambridge for study, before entering the University: because he is neither man nor boy.

Beastly. In modern colloquial usage applied to whatever may offend the taste: cf. awful, everlasting, etc. (1611).

Beat. 1. This word is used in many ways, its precise meaning often depending on its qualifying adjective. It is said of both men and things; for example, a *live beat* is anybody or anything that surpasses another, and the sense is not derogatory in the least. A *dead beat*, on the other hand, is the name given to a man who sponges on his fellows. [Probably from that sense of beat signifying to overcome; to show oneself superior to, either in a good or bad sense.] 2. A daily round, duty, work, etc.; and, figuratively, a sphere of influence (1788). As adj. (1) overcome, exhausted, done up: generally *dead-beat* (q.v.); (2) hence baffled, defeated. As verb, to swindle, deceive, cheat. *Daisy beat*, a swindle of the first water, a robbery of magnitude. *To beat hollow* (*to sticks*, *ribands*, *fits*, *all creation*, *to shivers*, etc.), to excel, surpass (1759). *To get a beat on*, to get the advantage of. Other phrases are, *to beat the air*, to strive to no purpose (1375); *to beat the streets*, to walk to and fro; *to beat over the old ground*, to discuss topics already treated; *to beat about the bush*, to act cautiously, approach warily or in a roundabout way (1572); *to beat up*, to visit unceremoniously; *to beat the brains*, (*head*, etc.), to think persistently; *to beat out*, to exhaust, overpower; *to beat the hoof*, to walk, go on foot, plod, prowl (1596); *to beat the rib* (see Rib). *To beat the booby* (or *goose*), to strike the hands across the chest and under the armpits to warm them: formerly *to beat Jonas*; *to beat the road*, to travel by rail without paying. *That beats the Dutch!* (see Dutch). *To beat daddy mammy*, to tattoo, practise the elements of drum beating. *To beat down to bed-rock* (see Bedrock). *To beat out*, impoverished, in one's last straits, hard up.

Beater-cases. Boots, shoes, now nearly obsolete. *Trotter-cases* (q.v.) being the usual term nowadays.

Beaters. The feet: Barclay in *Shyp of Folys* (1509), speaks of 'night watchers and beters of the stretes:' see Creepers.

Beating-stock. A subject of frequent chastisement: cf. Laughing-stock.

Beauetry. Dandyism, dandy outfit: a humorous imitation of coquetry (1702).

Beau Trap. 1. A loose stone in a pavement, under which water lodges, and which, on being trodden upon, squirts it up. 2. A well-dressed sharper, on the look-out for raw country visitors and such like. 3. A fop, well-dressed outwardly, but whose linen, person, and habits generally are unclean.

Beauty. A term applied, on the rule of contrary, to the plainest or ugliest cadet in the class at the United States Military Academy at West Point. *It was great beauty*, it was a fine sight; *That's the beauty of it*, That's just as it should be: as affording special pleasure or satisfaction.

Beauty-sleep. Sleep before midnight, the idea being that early hours conduce to health and beauty (1850).

Beauty-spot. Ironically of a pimple or other blemish on the face or other exposed parts of the person.

Beaver, subs. (common). An old term for a hat; goss, cady (1528): at one time hats were made of beaver's fur—hence the name; the term is still occasionally applied to tall chimney-pot hats, but for many years silk has replaced the skin of the rodent in their manufacture. *In beaver*, in a tall hat and non-academical garb, as distinguished from cap and gown (1840). See also Bever.

Beck. 1. A constable: see Beak. 2. A parish beadle; apparently the term was applied to all kinds of watchmen: see Harman-beck. As verb, to imprison: amongst Dutch thieves *bekaan* has the same signification.

Bed. *To put to bed with a pickaxe and shovel*, to bury.

Bedder (Cambridge University). A charwoman; one who makes the beds and performs other necessary domestic duties for residents in college.

Bed-fagot. 1. Applied contemptuously to a woman; cf. hussy, witch, etc. 2. A wanton.

Bedfordshire. *Sheet alley* (q.v.), *blanket fair* (q.v.), *the land of Nod* (q.v.), etc. (1665).

Bedful of Bones. A skinny, bony, bedfellow (1621).

Bedoozle. To confuse, to bewilder: probably a corrupt form of the old English verb bedazzle, used by Shakespeare in *Taming of the Shrew*, IV. v. 46 (1593).

Bedpost. *In the twinkling of a bedpost*, instantaneously, with great rapidity: originally *in the twinkling of a bedstaff* (1660). Among English synonyms may be included:—in a jiffy, in two two's, in a brace of shakes, before you can say Jack Robinson, in a crack, in the squeezing of a lemon. *Between you and me and the bed-post*, a humorous tag to an assertion; i.e. between ourselves—I know what you say, but, *between you and me*, etc. . . . the thing is absurd: sometimes the last word is varied by post, door post, or gate post—any prop will serve (1831).

Bedrock. *To get down to bedrock*, to get at the bottom of matters, thoroughly understand, get in on the ground floor (q.v.): a miner's term, alluding to the solid rock underlying superficial and other formations. *Bedrock fact*, a chiel that winna ding, the incontestable and incontrovertible truth.

Bedtime. The hour of death (*Alford*).

Bee. 1. A sweet writer. 2. A busy worker. 3. A working party of neighbours and friends for the benefit of one of their number; as when a party of settlers combine to erect a log-house for a newcomer, or when farmers unite to gather one another's harvests in succession: e.g. apple-bee, raising bee, etc.; hence, a social gathering for some specific purpose, as spelling bee. *To have a bee in the head* (*brains, garret*, or *bonnet*,) to have queer ideas, be half-cracked, flighty; this phrase is of considerable antiquity, being traced back to a Scotch writer, Gawin Douglas by name [1474-1521], Bishop of Dunkeld, who used it in a translation of Virgil's *Æneid*. Hence, *bee-bonneted* (or *bee-headed*) crazed; *bee-head*, a crazy pate: see Buffle.

Beef. 1. Human flesh (a transferred sense); i.e. obese, stolid, fleshy like an ox. 2. By a further transition *beef* has also come to signify men, strength, hands; *More beef!* a bo'sun's exhortation to extra exertion. *To be in a man's beef*, to wound with a sword (*Grose*). *To cry* (or *give*) *beef* (or *hot beef*), to give an alarm, pursue, set up a hue and cry: it has been suggested that *beef* in this case is a rhyming synonym for thief. *To be dressed like Christmas beef*, to be decked out in one's best raiment. *To make beef*, to run away, decamp. *Beef to the heels, like a Mullingar Heifer*, said of a stalwart man, or a fine woman; i.e. one whose superiority is manifest from the crown of the head to the sole of the foot; literally, *all beef down to the heels. Beef up!* phr. Put on your strength! Give a long pull and a strong pull! *To beef it*, originally a provincialism, but now common in the East End of London: to take a meat meal, more particularly of beef.

Beef-brained. Doltish, obtuse, thickheaded.

Beef-head. A dolt; a stupid, thick-headed person: see Buffle.

Beefment. *On the beefment*, on the alert, on the look out.

Beef-stick. The bone in a joint of beef. At mess it is First come, best served; and those who come last sometimes get little more than the beef-stick.

Beef Straight. See Straight.

Beef-witted. See Beef-brained (1594).

Beefy. Fleshy, unduly thick, obese: a run of luck and good fortune, generally, is likewise referred to as *beefy*. Whence *beefiness*.

Bee-line. *To take* (or *make*) *a bee-line*, to go direct, as the crow flies, without circumlocution. Bees, when fully laden with pollen, make for the hive in a straight, or bee-line. One of the American railways is called the *Bee Line Road* from the direct route it takes between its termini (1849).

Beelzebub's Paradise. Hell, the infernal regions.

Been. *Been in the sun*, drunk: see Screwed. *Been measured for a new umbrella*, said sportively of any one appearing in new, ill-fitting clothes, or who has struck out a new line of action, the wisdom of which is doubtful: the joke is an old one and refers to a man of whom it was said that nothing fitted him but his umbrella. *Oh yes, I've been there*; I know what I am about. A popular exclamation: when it is said of a man that he has been there, shrewdness, pertinacity, and experience are implied.

Beer. To drink beer, also, *to do a beer. To be in beer*, drunk: see Screwed. *To think no small beer of oneself*, to possess a good measure of self-esteem (1840): see Small-beer.

Beer and Bible. An epithet applied sarcastically to a political party which first came into prominence during the last Beaconsfield Administration, and which was called into being by a measure introduced by the moderate Liberals in 1873, with a view to placing certain restrictions upon the sale of intoxicating drinks. The Licensed Victuallers, an extremely powerful association whose influence extended all over the kingdom, took alarm, and turned to the Conservatives for help in opposing the bill. In the ranks of the latter were numbered the chief brewers; the leaders of the association, moreover, had mostly strong high-church tendencies, while one of them was president of the Exeter Hall organization. The Liberals, noting these facts, nicknamed this alliance the *Beer and Bible Association*; the *Morning Advertiser*, the organ of the Licensed Victuallers, was dubbed the *Beer and Bible Gazette*; and lastly, electioneering tactics ascribed to them the war cry of *Beer and Bible*! This so-called Beer and Bible interest made rapid strides: in 1870 the Conservatives were at their low-water mark among the London constituencies; but, in 1880, they had carried seats in the City, Westminster, Marylebone, Tower Hamlets, Greenwich, and Southwark. A notable exception to this strange fellowship was Mr. Bass [afterwards Lord Bass], of pale-ale fame, who held aloof from opposition to the measure in question. Anent the nickname *Beer and Bible Gazette* given to the *Morning Advertiser*, it may be mentioned that it had already earned for itself a somewhat similar sobriquet. For a long time this paper devoted one-half of its front page to notices of publicans and tavern-keepers; while the other half was filled up with announcements of religious books, and lists of preachers at the London churches and chapels. This gained for the paper the sobriquet of the Gin and Gospel Gazette.

Beer and Skittles. Generally, *Not all beer and skittles*, i.e. not altogether pleasant, or *couleur de rose*.

Beer-barrel. The human body: cf. Bacon.

Beeriness (or Beery), pertaining to a state of (or approaching to) drunkenness, intoxicated, fuddled with beer: see Screwed (1857).

Beer-jerker (or -slinger). A tippler: see Lushington.

Beerocracy, subs. (common). The brewing and beer-selling interest: a humorous appellation in imitation of aristocracy: cf. Mobocracy, Cottonocracy, etc.

Beeswax. 1. Poor, soft cheese, sweaty-toe cheese (q.v.) (1821). 2. A bore; one who button-holes another; generally *Old beeswax*.

Beeswaxers (Winchester College). Thick boots: used for football: probably from being smeared with beeswax to supple them: pronounced *Beswaxers*.

Beeswing. A gauzy film or crust, in port wines, the result of age, so called from its appearance when broken up in the process of decanting. Hence also Beeswinged (1846). *Old beeswing*, a nickname for any one, but especially for one who takes to his liquor kindly.

Beetle. *Deaf* (*dumb*, or *dull*) *as a beetle*, a type of dulness or stupidity, blockishness; *beetle-brain* (-or *head*), a term of contempt: cf. Blockhead.

Beetle-crusher (or beetle-squasher), 1. A large foot: the term was popularised by Leech in *Punch*. 2. A large boot or shoe: also *Beetle-cases*. 3. An infantry soldier; a cavalry term: see Mud-crusher.

Beetle-crushing. With solid tread, such as comes from large heavy feet in boots or shoes to match; e.g. the marching of infantry.

Beetles. Colorado mining shares.

Beetle-sticker. An entomologist.

Before. *Before the wind*, in prosperous circumstances, out of debt or difficulty.

Begad! A corruption of By God! and, as such, a euphemistic oath (1742).

Beggar. 1. A term of contempt; a mean or low fellow. 2. An endearment: cf. baggage, dog, rogue, etc. Also phrases: A beggar's wallet is never filled (1539); Beggars should not be choosers (1562); A beggar may sing before a thief (1562); I know him as well as a beggar knows his bag; Beggars mounted run their horses to death; Rich when young, a beggar when old; As great as beggars; Sue a beggar and catch a louse; Set a beggar on horseback and he'll ride to the devil. *Beggar the thing!* confound it, or, hang the thing.

Beggared. *I'll be beggared if*, etc., an emphatic asseveration; i.e. I'll give up everything, even to being reduced to beggary, if, etc.

Beggar-maker. A publican.

Beggars. The small cards from the deuce to the ten.

Beggar's Brown. Scotch snuff: made of the stem of tobacco.

Beggar's Bullets (or Bolts). Stones (1584).

Beggar's Bush. *To go home by beggar's bush*, to go to ruin (1686).

Beggar's Plush. Corduroy (1688).

Beggar's Velvet. Downy particles which accumulate under furniture: otherwise called sluts'-wool (q.v.).

Begin. *To begin upon a person*, to attack, assault.

Begosh! B'gosh! An expletive (probably of negro origin), a half veiled oath.

Behind. 1. The posterior. 2. (Eton and Winchester Colleges). A back at football: at Eton called *short behind* and *long behind*, usually abbreviated to short and long; at Winchester, *second behind* and *last behind*: these answer to the half-back and back of Association football: at Winchester, in the Fifteens, there is also a *third behind*. *Behind one's side* (Winchester College). Said of a man when nearer the opponent's goal than the player of his team who last touched the ball.

Beilby's Ball. An Old Bailey execution (*Grose*).

Bejan, Baijan (Scotch University). A freshman student of the first year at the Universities of St. Andrews and Aberdeen: it is now obsolete at Edinburgh: from the French *bec jaune*, yellow beak, in allusion to the colour of the mandibles of young birds. The term was adopted from the University of Paris; but, signifying a novice, it has been in more or less general use for nearly three hundred years. At Aberdeen, the second-class students are *semi-bejans*; in the third *tertians*; while those in the highest rank are *magistrands*.

Belch. Beer, especially poor beer: because of its liability to cause eructation. One of Shakespeare's characters in *Twelfth Night* is Sir Toby Belch, a reckless, roystering, jolly knight of the Elizabethan period.

Belcher. 1. A neckerchief named after Jim Belcher, a noted pugilist: the ground is blue, with white spots: also any handkerchief of a similar pattern (1812). 2. A ring: with the crown and V.R. stamped upon them. 3. A beer drinker, a hard drinker (1598).

Belial. Balliol College, Oxford.

Believe. *I believe you*, employed to signify general assent; Yes: sometimes *I believe you, my boy*; once a favourite catch-phrase of a well-known actor.

Bell. A song: a tramps' term: a diminutive of bellow. *To bell a marble*, to run away with it: the action scarcely amounts to actual theft. *To ring one's own bell*, to blow one's trumpet, to sound one's own praises.

Bell-bastard. The illegitimate child of a woman who is herself illegitimate.

Bellmare. A political leader, mostly contemptuously.

Bellows. The lungs (1615). *Bellows to mend*, said of a broken-winded horse; likewise of a man whose lungs are affected, or one who from any cause is out of health.

Bellows-blower. 1. One exciting to strife. 2. An unskilled assistant, a mere hodman.

Bellowsed. Transported, lagged: cf. Bellowser.

Bellowser. 1. A blow in the pit of the stomach, a winder, that which takes the breath away. 2. A sentence of transportation for life.

Bell-rope. Aggerawators (q.v.).

Bellswagger. See Belswagger.

Bell-topper. A silk hat: see Golgotha.

Bell-wether. 1. A chief or leader: in contempt. 2. Clamorous person, a mouther (q.v.). Hence *Bellwethering* and *Bellwetherishness*.

Belly-ache. A colic.

Belly-bender. A boy's term for weak and unsafe ice.

Belly-bound. Constipated; costive.

Belly-bumper (or **Belly-buster**). *To take a belly-buster*, to ride downhill in a sled lying on one's stomach: an amusement of young America: the idea of tobogganing was derived from this boyish pastime: also Belly-bumbo, Belly-guts (or gutter), Belly-flounders, Belly-flumps, and Belly-plumper.

Belly-button. The navel.

Belly-cheat (or **Belly-chete**). 1. An apron. 2. Food (1609).

Belly-cheer (or **Belly-chere**). Food. *Belly-cheering*, eating, drinking (1559).

Belly-critic. A connoisseur of good living.

Belly-friend. A parasite, sponger (q.v.).

Belly-full. A sound drubbing, a thrashing (1599).

Belly-furniture. Food, something wherewith to furnish the belly: cf. Belly-timber, Back-timber, etc. (1653).

Belly-god. A glutton (1540).

Belly-go-firster. An initial blow, generally given, say some authorities, in the stomach — whence its classic name!

Belly-grinding. Colic, a pain in the bowels.

Belly-gut, subs. (old). A lazy, greedy fellow; slothful glutton (1540).

Belly-guts. 1. In Pennsylvania, molasses candy. 2. Belly-bumper (q.v.).

Belly-hedges (Shrewsbury School). In school steeplechases, obstructions of such a height that they can easily be cleared—i.e. about belly-high.

Belly-metal. Food.

Belly-mountained. Prominent in the belly, footy-gutted (q.v.).

Belly-paunch. A glutton, a great feeder.

Belly-piece. 1. An apron: cf. Belly-cheat (1689). 2. A mistress, concubine (1630).

Belly-pinched. Hungry.

Belly Plea. A plea of pregnancy: urged by female felons capitally convicted. The plea still holds good, execution of female convicts in an interesting condition being deferred until after accouchement: in practice, it really means a commutation of the death penalty for life imprisonment.

Belly-plumper. See Belly-bumper.

Belly-sacrifice. A gluttonous feast.

Belly-slave. A glutton.

Belly-swain. A glutton.

Belly-timber. Food, provisions of all kinds: like many other words of its class (e.g. Back-timber, q.v.), once in serious use, but now a thoroughgoing vulgarism, only surviving dialectically, and as slang: Massinger and the older dramatists employed it seriously, toward the end of the seventeenth century it began to be used in a ludicrous and vulgar sense.

Belly-up. *Enceinte.*

Belly-vengeance. Sour beer: as apt to cause gastralgia: Fr., *pissin de cheval.*

Belongings. 1. Qualities, endowments, faculties. 2. Relations, one's kindred. 3. One's effects, possessions. 4. Trousers.

Belswagger, subs. (old). 1. A lewdster, pimp (1775). 2. A bully, hector (1592).

Belt. *To strike below the belt*, to act unfairly; to take mean advantage, to stab a man in the back.

Beltinker. A beating, drubbing. As verb, to thrash, beat soundly.

Bemused. Fuddled, in the stupid stage of drunkenness: see Screwed: usually *bemused with beer* (*Pope*).

Ben. 1. A benefit, performance of which the receipts, after paying expenses, are devoted to one person's special use or benefit. 2. A fool: see Buffle (*Grose*). 3. A shortened form of Benjamin (q.v.), a coat; also of Benjy (q.v.), a waistcoat. *To stand ben*, to stand treat.

Benar. See Bene.

Benbouse. Good beer (1567).

Bench-babbler (or **whistler**). A loafer, one who sits idly on a bench: a generic reproach.

Bencher. A frequenter of taverns, one who hulks about public houses.

Ben Cull (or **Cove**). A friend, Pall (q.v.), companion.

Bend. To tipple, drink hard (Jamieson) (1758). *Above one's bend*, above one's ability (power or capacity), out of one's reach, above one's hook: in U.S.A. *above my huckleberry* (q.v.). *Grecian bend*, a craze amongst women which had a vogue from about 1872 to 1880: it consisted in walking with the body bent forward. *On the bend*, in an underhand, oblique, or crooked way—not on the square. *Bend over* (Winchester College), a direction to put oneself into position to receive a spanking: this is done by bending over so that the tips of the fingers extend towards the toes, thus presenting a surface as tight as a drum for castigation.

Bender. 1. A sixpence: see Rhino (1789). 2. A hard and persistent drinker, a tippler (1728). 3. In public school phraseology a stroke of the cane administered by the master while the culprit bends down his back. 4. The arm. 5. A drinking bout, spree. 6. The leg. 7. The bow-shaped segment of a paper kite. *Over the bender*, a variant of Over the left shoulder. As intj., an exclamation of incredulity, also used as a kind of saving clause to a promise which the speaker does not intend to carry into effect.

Bendigo. A rough fur cap: named after a notorious pugilist.

Bene, Ben. Good: this belongs to the most ancient English cant, and is probably a corruption from the Latin: *benar* and *benat* appear to have been used as comparatives of *bene* (1567). *Stowe your bene*, hold your tongue.

Bene-bouze. See Benbouse.

Bene-cove. See Ben-cull.

Bene Darkmans! Good-night! French thieves say *sorgabon*, an inversion of *bonne sorgue*.

Benedick. A newly-married man; especially one who has long been a bachelor. Apparently, however, there is some confusion in the usage, for it also signifies a bachelor.

Bene Feakers. Counterfeiters of bills (*Grose*).

Bene Feakers of Gybes. Counterfeiters of passes (*Grose*).

Bene (or Bien) Mort. A fine woman, pretty girl, hostess (1567).

Beneship. See Benship (1567).

Beneshiply. Worshipfully.

Ben-flake. A steak.

Bengal Tigers. The Seventeenth Foot, now the Leicestershire regiment: from its badge of a royal tiger granted for services in India from 1804-1823: also called The Lily-Whites from its facings.

Bengi. An onion.

Benish. Foolish.

Benjamin (Winchester College). 1. A small ruler. 2. (thieves') A coat: said to have been derived from a well-known London advertising tailor of the same name. *Upper Benjamin*, a greatcoat (1815).

Ben Joltram. Brown bread and skimmed milk; a Norfolk term for a ploughboy's breakfast (*Hotten*).

Benjy. 1. A low crowned straw hat having a very broad brim. 2. A waistcoat: also Ben (q.v.).

Bens. Tools.

Benship (or Beenship). Worship, goodness: this word, evidently from Beneship (q.v.), is given by Bailey (1728), and by Coles (1724), As adj., very good (1567).

Beong. A shilling: see Rhino: from Italian *bianco*, white; also the name of a silver coin.

Beray. To defile, befoul, abuse: old cant.

Berkeleys. A woman's breasts.

Bermudas. A district in London, similar to Alsatia in Whitefriars (q.v.), and the Mint in Southwark, privileged against arrests. The Bermudas are thought to have been certain narrow and obscure alleys and passages north of the Strand, near Covent Garden, and contiguous to Drury Lane.

Berthas. London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway shares.

Berwicks. The ordinary stock of the North Eastern Railway.

Besom. A low woman.

Besom-head. A blockhead, fool: see Buffle. Whence *besom-headed.*

Besognio. 1. A raw soldier. 2. A needy beggar. 3. A worthless fellow.

Bespeak-night. A benefit.

Bess. See Betty.

Bess-o'-Bedlam. A lunatic vagrant.

Best. *To best one.* To obtain an advantage, secure a superior position in a contest or bargain, to worst, but not necessarily to cheat. *To best the pistol*, to get away before the signal for starting is actually given. *To give one best*, to leave one, sever companionship.

Bester. A cheat, swindler: generally applied to a turf or gaming blackleg.

Bet. 1. *To bet one's eyes*, to onlook, but to take no part in, nor bet upon the game. *You bet!* Be assured, certainly. 2. *To bet round*, to lay fairly and equally against nearly all the horses in a race, so that no great risk can be run: commonly called getting round (*Hotten*).

Bethel. In the year 1680 *Bethel* and Cornish were chosen sheriffs. The former used to walk about more like a corn-cutter than Sheriff of London. He kept no house, but lived upon chops, whence it is proverbial for not feasting to *bethel* the city (*North*). *Little Bethel*, a place of worship other than those of the established church: in contempt.

Be there. See There.

Better. More: there is no idea of superiority: a depraved word, once in good usage, but now regarded as a vulgarism (1587). *Better half*, a wife: originally my better half, i.e. the more than half of my being; said of a very close and intimate friend: formerly also applied to the soul, as the better part of man (*Murray*) (1580).

Bettor Round. One who is addicted to betting round: see Bet.

Betty. 1. A man who occupies himself with household matters: in contempt. 2. A small instrument used by burglars to force open doors and pick locks: also Bess, now called a Jenny (1671). 3. A Florence flask: as used for olive oil. As verb (colloquial), to potter about, fuss about. *All betty!* a cry of warning, it's all up, the game is lost!

Betwattled. Surprised, confounded, out of one's senses, bewrayed (*Grose*).

Between. Phrases: *Between the beetle and the block*, in parlous state; *between the cup and the lip*, as near as a toucher (q.v.); *between the devil and the Dead* (or *deep blue*) *sea*, at one's last resource, cornered (q.v.); *between the bark and the wood* (or *tree*), see Tree; *between you and me and the bedpost*; see Bedpost.

Bever. 1. Drink, liquor. 2. A potation, drinking bout, a time for drinking. 3. A small repast between meals, snack: especially a snack between mid-day dinner and supper (1500). Also as verb.

Beverage (or **Bevy**). A tip, vail: equivalent to the Fr., *pourboire*: money for drink, demanded (*Grose*) of any one having a new suit of clothes.

Beware. 'We [strolling actors] call breakfast, dinner, tea, supper, all of them, numyare; and all beer, brandy, water, or soup, are *beware*' (*Mayhew*).

Beyond. *The back of beyond*, an out-of-the-way place, ever so far off (1816).

B Flat. A bug: cf. **F sharps**: see Norfolk Howards.

Bib. *To nap a bib* (or *one's bib*), to weep, blubber, snivel, *Best bib and tucker*, best-clothes.

Bibables (or **Bibibles**). Drink, as distinguished from food: a coinage on the model of edibles, eatables, drinkables, etc.

Bib-all-night. A toper, confirmed drunkard: see Lushington (1612).

Bible. A hand-axe, a small holystone (a kind of sand-stone used in cleaning decks), so called from seamen using them kneeling (*Smyth*). *That's bible*, that's the truth, that's A 1.

Bible-carrier. A running stationer (q.v.) who sells songs without singing them: once often heard in the neighbourhood of Seven Dials.

Bible-clerk (Winchester College). A College prefect in full power, appointed for one week. He keeps order in school, reads the lessons in chapel, takes round rolls (q.v.), and assists at floggings. He is absolved from going up to books (q.v.) during his term of office. The prefect of hall need not act as Bible-clerk unless he likes, and the prefect of School may choose any week he pleases; the rest take weeks in rotation, in the order of their Chambers in College: see Bibler and Bibling.

Bible-pounder (sharp, or thumper). A clergyman.

Bibler (Winchester College). Now called Bibling (q.v.). *Bibler under nail*, see Bibling under nail.

Bibling (Winchester College). Formerly called a bibler. A flogging of six cuts on the small of the back, administered by the head or second master. So called because the person to be operated upon ordered (q.v.) his name to the Bible-clerk (q.v.).

Bibling-rod (Winchester College). The instrument with which a bibling (q.v.) was administered. It consisted of a handle with four apple twigs in the end, twisted together. It is represented on *Aut Disce.* It was invented and first used by Warden Baker in 1454. It is not used now.

Bibling under Nail (Winchester College). A bibling (q.v.) administered for very heinous offences after an offender had stood under nail (q.v.).

Biddy. 1. A chicken: sometimes *chick-a-biddy.* 2. A young woman, not necessarily Irish: in both these senses the word appears in *Grose* (1785) Since that time it would seem to have changed somewhat in meaning as follows. 3. A woman, whether young or old. 4. (Winchester College). See Bidet. 5. (American). A servant girl—generally Irish.

Bidet (or **Biddy**) (Winchester College). A bath.

Bidstand. A highwayman (1637).

Bien. See Bene.

Biff. A blow. *To give a biff in the jaw*, to smack one's face, to wipe one in the chops.

Biffin. *My biffin!* my pal! A biffin is properly a dried apple, cf. Pippin.

Big. *To talk* (or *look*) *big*, to assume a pompous style or manner with a view to impressing others with a sense of one's importance; to talk loudly, boastingly: Fr., *se hancher* (1579). *Big as all outdoors*, an expression intended to convey an idea of indefinite size, hugeness, enormous capacity.

Big-bellied. Advanced in pregnancy (1711).

Big Ben. A nickname for the clock in the tower of the Houses of Parliament at Westminster: named after Sir Benjamin Hall, the Commissioner of Works, under whose supervision it was constructed: it was commenced in 1856, and finished in 1857.

Big Bird. *To get* (or *give*) *the big bird*, to be hissed on the stage; or, conversely, to hiss.

Big Bug. A person of standing (or consequence): a common mode of allusion to persons of wealth or other claims to distinction: variants are Big-dog, Big-toad, Big-wig, and Great gun (1854).

Big Country. The open country.

Big Dog of the Tanyard. A consequential, pompous individual; one who will neither allow others a voice in any matter, or permit dissent from his own views.

Big Dog with the Brass Collar. The chief in any undertaking or enterprise, a leader.

Big Drink. 1. The ocean: more particularly applied to the Atlantic: also called the Big pond, Herring pond, the Puddle (q.v.). 2. When a Western plainsman talks of the Big drink he is always understood to mean the Mississippi river. *To take a big* (or *long*) *drink*, to partake of liquor from a large glass.

Big-endian. Anybody or anything of importance.

Big Figure. *To go the big figure*, a variant of to go the whole hog, or to go the whole animal.

Biggest. A superlative often used in the sense of the best or the finest.

Biggest Toad in the Puddle. One of the many bold, if equivocal, metaphors to which the West has given rise. The *biggest toad in the puddle* is the recognised leader or chief, whether in politics or in connection with the rougher avocations of pioneer life.

Biggity. Consequential, giving oneself airs: a negro term.

Big Gun. A person of consequence.

Big-head. *To have a big-head.* 1. To be conceited, bumptious: also applied to those who are cocksure of everything, or affected in manner. 2. The after effect of a debauch. *To get the big-head*, to get drunk: see Screwed.

Big House. The workhouse: sometimes called the Large House.

Big Mouth. Excessive talkativeness, loquacity.

Big Nuts to crack. An undertaking of magnitude, one not easy to perform.

Big One (or **Big 'Un**). A man of note or importance.

Big People. Persons of standing or consequence.

Big Pond. The Atlantic: also The big drink (q.v.).

Big Pot. A person of consequence.

Big-side (Rugby School). The combination of all the bigger fellows in the school in one and the same game or run; also the ground specially used for the game so denominated: also used at other public schools. Whence *Big-side run*, a paper chase, in which picked representatives of all houses take part, as opposed to a house run.

Big Take. That which takes the public fancy, a great success, etc.,—in short, anything that catches on.

Big Talk. Pompous speech, a pedantic use of long words.

Big Wig. A person of consequence, one high in authority or rank: used both contemptuously and humorously (1703). *Big-wigged*, pompous, consequential. *Big-wiggery*, a display of consequence, or pomposity. *Big-wiggism*, pomposity.

Big Words. Pompous speech, crack jaw words.

Bike. Short for bicycle: cf. Trike.

Bilbo (or Bilboa). (1) A sword: Bilbao in Spain was once renowned for well-tempered blades. Hence (2) a sword personified, especially that of a bully. *Bilbo's the word*, Beware, a blow will follow the word. *Bilbo-lord*, a bully. Also (3) a kind of stock—a long iron bar with sliding shackles for the ankle, and a lock by which to fasten the bar at one end to the ground (1567).

Bile. A vulgarism for boil.

Bilgewater. Bad beer.

Bilk. A word, formerly in general use, to which a certain stigma of vulgarity is now attached. Uncertain in derivation—possibly a corrupted form of balk—it was first employed technically at cribbage to signify the spoiling of an adversary's score in the crib. Among obsolete or depraved usages may be mentioned. 1. A statement or string of words without sense, truth, or meaning (1663). 2. A hoax, imposition, humbug (1664). 3. A swindler, cheat: this is the most familiar current use of the word in its substantive form, and is applied mainly to persons who cheat cabmen of their fares, and such like: also Bilker (1790). 4. A person who habitually sponges upon another, and who never by any chance makes a return or even offers to do so. As adj., fallacious, without truth or meaning (1740). As verb, to cheat, defraud, evade one's obligations, escape from, etc. (1677). *To bilk the blues*, to evade the police. *To bilk the schoolmaster*, to obtain knowledge or experience without paying for it (1821).

Bilker. A cheat, swindler: see Bilk.

Bilking. Cheating, swindling.

Bill (Eton College). 1. A list of boys who have to go to the headmaster at 12 o'clock; also of those who get off Absence (q.v.), or names-calling: e.g. an eleven playing in a match are thus exempt. 2. (Harrow School). Names-calling. *To hang up a bill*, to pass it through one or more of its stages, and then to lay it aside and defer its further consideration for a more or less indefinite period. *To rush a bill*, to expedite the passing of a bill through the Senate and Congress. *To hold with bill in the water*, to keep in suspense. *Long* (or *short*) *bill*, a long (or short) term of imprisonment. *To pay a bill at sight*, said of a man or woman who is always ready for action. *To bill up*, to be confined to barracks.

Billbrighter (Winchester College). A small fagot used for lighting coal fires in Kitchen: so called from a servant Bill Bright, who was living in 1830.

Billet. A situation, berth. *To get a billet*, amongst prisoners to obtain promotion to duties which carry with them certain privileges.

Billiard Block. One who puts up with disagreeables for the sake of pecuniary or other advantages; also, occasionally, a jackal (q.v.), a tame cat (q.v.).

Billiard-slum. False pretences.

Billingsgate. Coarse language, scurrilous abuse: from the evil reputation which the market of the same name has enjoyed for centuries. In the seventeenth century references to the violent and abusive speech of those frequenting the place were very numerous (1652). In French an analogous reference is made to the Place Maubert, also long noted for its noisy market. *To Billingsgate* (or *talk Billingsgate*), to scold, talk coarsely (or violently), slang (q.v.). So also, *You're no better than a Billingsgate fishfag*, i.e. rude and ill-mannered. *Billingsgatry*, scurrilous language.

Billingsgate Pheasant. A red herring (or bloater), a two-eyed steak.

Bill of Sale. Widow's weeds.

Billy. 1. A pocket handkerchief (or neckerchief): chiefly of silk: the various fancies have been thus described:—*Belcher*, darkish blue ground, large round white spots, with a spot in the centre of darker blue than the ground: this was adopted by Jem Belcher, the pugilist, as his colours, and soon became popular amongst the fancy; *Bird's-eye wipe*, a handkerchief of any colour, containing white spots: the blue bird's-eye is similar to the Belcher except in the centre: sometimes a bird's-eye wipe has a white ground and blue spots; *Blood-red fancy*, red; *Blue Billy*, blue ground, generally with white figures; *Cream fancy*, any pattern on a white ground; *King's man*, yellow pattern on a green ground; *Randal's man*, green, with white spots: named after the favourite colours of Jack Randal, pugilist; *Water's man*, sky coloured;

Yellow fancy, yellow with white spots; *Yellow man*, all yellow. 2. Stolen metal. 3. A weapon: usually composed of a piece of untanned cowhide, as hard as horn itself, some six inches in length, twisted or braided into a sort of handle, and covered from end to end with woollen cloth: one extremity is loaded with lead; to the other is firmly attached a loop, large enough to admit a man's hand, formed of strong linen cord, and intended to allow the billy to hang loose from the wrist, and at the same time prevent it being lost or wrenched from the grasp of its owner. 4. A policeman's staff, truncheon. 5. A bushman's tea-pot or saucepan. 6. A companion, comrade, mate (1505). 7. A fellow (1774). 8. A brother; hence *Billyhood*, brotherhood (1724).

Billy Barlow. A street clown, mountebank: from the hero of a slang song—Billy was a real person, semi-idiotic, and though in dirt and rags, fancied himself a swell of the first water; occasionally he came out with real witticisms; he was a well-known street character about the East-end of London, and died in Whitechapel Workhouse (1851).

Billy blinder. A hoodwinker.

Billy-boy. A vessel like a galliot, with two masts, the fore-mast square-rigged: they hail mainly from Goole: also called *Humber-keels*.

Billy-button. 1. Mutton. 2. A journeyman tailor.

Billy Buzman. A thief whose speciality is silk pocket- and neckerchiefs.

Billy-cock. A round, low-crowned hat—generally of soft felt, and with a broad brim. The Billy-cock of the Antipodean colonies differs from the English headgear known by the name in being made of hard instead of soft felt, and in having a turned-up brim.

Billy-fencer. A marine store dealer.

Billy-goat. A tufted beard; similar to that of a goat.

Billy-hunting. 1. Collecting and buying old metal. 2. Stealing pocket-handkerchiefs.

Billy Noodle. A ladykiller, conceited ass.

Billy-roller. A long stout stick.

Bim, Bimshire. A Barbadian: the island of Barbadoes: this place is also jeeringly called Little England.

Bing. See Bynge a waste.

Binge. A drinking bout.

Bingham's Dandies. The 17th Lancers.

Bingo. Brandy, or other spirituous liquor: thought to be a humorous formation from B. for brandy (cf. B. and S.) and stingo (*Grose*). Hence, *Bingo boy*, a tippler, drunkard; *Bingo mort*, a drunken woman.

Bingy. Bad, ropy butter; nearly equivalent to vinnied (q.v.): in the English Dialect Society's Chester *Glossary*, bingy is given as a peculiar clouty or frowsty taste in milk—the first stage of turning sour.

Binnacle Word. A fine (or affected) word, which sailors jeeringly offer to chalk up upon the binnacle (*Grose*).

Birch-broom. A room. *Like a birch-broom in a fit*, said of a rough towzly head.

Birchin Lane. *To send one to Birchin Lane*, to castigate, flog: cf. Strap oil, etc.

Birch-oil. A thrashing: cf. Strap-oil, Hazel-oil, etc.

Bird. When a play is hissed the actors say The bird's there! see Goose. As verb, to thieve, steal, look for plunder: used by Ben Jonson. *A bird of one's own brain*, one's own conception. *The bird in the bosom*, one's secret pledge, conscience. *Birds of a feather*, of like character. Also proverbs and proverbial sayings—Some beat the bush and others take the bird; A child's bird and a knave's wife lead a sore life; The bird that fouleth its own nest is not honest, A bird in hand is worth three in the wood (or bush); An old bird is not caught with chaff; To kill two birds with one stone; The early bird catches the worm.

Bird-cage. 1. A bustle, an article of feminine attire, used for extending the skirts of the dress: at one time constructed of such a size and in such a manner as to be not altogether unlike an elongated bird-cage: among English synonyms may be mentioned canary cage, backstaircase, false hereafter, bishop. 2. A four-wheeled cab. 3. The paddock at the Newmarket race-course where saddling takes place.

Birdlime. 1. Time. 2. A thief (1705).

Bird's-eye (Bird's-eye Fogle, Bird's-eye Wipe). A silk handkerchief spotted with eye-like markings: see Billy (1665).

Birdsnye. An endearment: cf. Pigsnye.

Bird-witted. Inconsiderate, thoughtless, easily imposed on (*Grose*) (1605).

Birk. A crib (q.v.), i.e. a house.

Birthday Suit. Nudity, buff (q.v.): Fr., *en sauvage* (1771).

Bishop. 1. A warm drink: wine, orange (or lemon), peel, and sugar—but variously compounded (1703). 2. A bustle (q.v.): a pad worn on the back part of the waist, and designed to give prominence to the skirt: see Bird-cage (1848). 3. A chamber-pot, jerry, jordan, it (q.v.). 4. (Winchester College). The sapling with which a fagot is bound together. As verb, (1) to burn marks into a horse's teeth, after he has lost them by age; or, by other deceptive arts to give a good appearance to a bad horse: by bishopping, a horse is made to appear younger than he is: the expression is derived from the name of a person who initiated the practice; (2) to murder by drowning: now obsolete: like Burke and Boycott from the name of an individual; a man named Bishop drowned a boy in Bethnal Green, in 1831, to sell the body for dissecting purposes.

Bismarquer. To cheat, play foul at cards (or billiards): the policy of Prince Bismarck, the German Chancellor, in 1865-66 roused the indignation of Europe.

Bit, Bite, Byte. 1. Money: see Rhino (1532). 2. A coin varying in value according to locality—usually, however, to the silver piece of the lowest denomination. Four-penny pieces are still called bits in English, though more popularly known as Joeys (q.v.) (1748). 3. In disparagement—*bits* of girls, *bits* of children, *bit* of a place, *bit of one's mind*, candid (and uncomplimentary) criticism, opinion, etc. *Bitwise*, little by little.

Bitch, subs. (low). 1. A woman: not now in literary use, though formerly so (1400). 2. A man: it has long since passed out of decent usage (1500). As verb, (1) to yield (or give up an attempt) through fear (*Grose*). (2) to spoil, bungle. *To stand bitch*, to make tea, or do the honours of the tea table, or to perform a woman's duty.

Bitch Booby. A country girl (*Grose*).

Bitch-daughter. The nightmare.

Bitch-fou. Very drunk, beastly drunk: see Screwed.

Bitch Party. A party composed of women: originally an Oxford term for a tea-party: cf. Hen-party (q.v.), and Stag-party.

Bite. 1. Money: generic: see Bit and Rhino. 2. An imposition, piece of humbug, sell, do: cf. Bilk, Bam, Bargain, and Sell: the sense runs through all stages, from jocular hoaxing to downright swindling; also in the sense of disappointment, as in the old proverb, the biter bit (1711). 3. A sharper, cheat, trickster (1742). 4. Applied in a transferred sense to anybody or anything suspected of being different to what it appears, but not necessarily in a bad sense. 5. One who drives a hard bargain, a close fist. 6. A Yorkshireman. 7. An irregular white spot on the edge or corner of a printed page, caused by the frisket not being sufficiently cut out (1677). As verb, (1) to deceive, cheat, swindle, do, or take in: formerly used both transitively and passively; now only in latter (1699); (2) to strike a hard bargain; (3) to steal; e.g. to bite the roger, to steal a portmanteau, to bite the wiper, to purloin a handkerchief. As intj., (1) formerly an equivalent to the modern Sold! Done! etc. (1704); (2) (Charterhouse). A warning *Cave!* *To do a thing when the maggot bites*, to do it when the fancy takes one, at one's own sweet will. *To bite one's hips*, to regret a word or action. *To bite one's name in*, to drink heavily, tipple, drink greedily. *To bite on the bridle*, to be pinched in circumstances, reduced, in difficulties. Phrases: *To bite upon the bridle*, to wait impatiently, like a restless horse; *To bite the dust* (*ground*, *sand*), etc., to die; *to bite the tongue*, to repress speech; *to bite the thumb at*, (1) 'To threaten or defie by putting the thumbe naile into the mouth, and with a ierke (from the upper teeth) make it to knack' (*Cotgrave*); (2) to insult; *to bite one's ear*, to caress fondly; *to bite the ear*, to borrow.

Biter. 1. A practical joker, hoaxer, one who deceives, a cheat and trickster: the term now only survives in the proverbial expression, the biter bit (1669). 2. A wanton.

Bite-up. An unpleasant altercation.

Bit-faker (or **Turner-out**). A coiner of bad money.

Bit-faking. Manufacturing base coin, counterfeiting.

Biting-up. Grieving over a loss (or bereavement).

Bit-maker. A counterfeiter.

Bit-o'-bull. Beef: Fr., *gobet;* formerly, a dainty morsel.

Bit of blood. A spirited horse thoroughbred (1819).

Bit of cavalry. A horse (1821).

Bit of ebony. A negro (or negress), snowball (q.v.).

Bit of fat. 1. An unexpected advantage in a transaction. 2. See Fat.

Bit of jam. See Jam.

Bit of leaf. Tobacco.

Bit of muslin. A young girl, a woman: see Petticoat.

Bit of mutton. A woman, cf. Laced mutton.

Bit of sticks. A corpse.

Bit of stiff. A bank-note (or other paper money), the equivalent of money when not in specie, i.e. a draft or bill of exchange (1854). Hence, *to do a bit of stiff,* to accept a bill.

Bit of stuff. An overdressed man, man with full confidence in his appearance and abilities; also a young woman.

Bitter. A glass of beer. *To do a bitter,* to drink a glass of bitter: originally (says Hotten) an Oxford term: varied by, to do a beer.

Bittock. A distance of very undecided length: if a North countryman be asked the distance to a place, he will most probably reply, a mile and a bittock: the latter may be considered any distance from one hundred yards to ten miles: also of time.

Biz. Business, employment, occupation: *Good biz,* profitable business.

B. K. S. Barracks: used by officers in mufti, who do not wish to give their address.

Blab, subs. (vulgar). 1. A babbler: a depraved word, once in common use, but rarely employed now, except colloquially. 2. Loose talk, chatter. Also as verb and in various compounds and allied forms, such as blabber, blabbing, blabbing-book, etc. —a taint of vulgarism now rests upon them all.

Black. 1. A poacher working with a blackened face (1722). 2. A mute (1619). Phrases: *To look black,* to frown, look angrily; *to say black is any one's eye* (*eyebrow, nail,* etc.), to find fault, lay to charge; *black-babbling,* malicious talk.

Black Act. Black art (q.v.).

Blackamoor. 1. A negro, any dark-skinned person; originally not in depreciation, but now a nickname (1547). 2. A devil, demon, evil spirit (1663).

Blackamoor's Teeth. Cowrie shells —the currency of some savage tribes (1700).

Black-and-tan. Porter (or stout) and ale, mixed in equal quantities.

Black-and-tan country. The Southern States of North America.

Black and White. The black characters of print or writing on white paper. Hence, *to put a thing down in black and white,* to preserve it in writing or in print: *black on white* is a variant (1596).

Black-apronry. The clerical and legal professions (1832).

Black-art. 1. Picking of locks, burglary (1591). 2. The business of an undertaker.

Black-ball. See Pill.

Blackballing. Stealing, pilfering: a sailor's word: it originated amongst the employees of the old Black Ball line of steamers between New York and Liverpool—the cruelty and scandalous conduct of officers to men, and sailors to each other, were so proverbial, that the line of vessels in question became known all over the world for the cruelty of its officers, and the thieving propensities of its sailors.

Blackbeetles. The lower strata of society (1821).

Blackberry swagger. A hawker of tapes, boot-laces, etc.

Blackbird. Formerly a captive on board a slaver; now generally understood as referring to a Polynesian indentured labourer, who, if not by name a slave, is often one to all intents and purposes. As verb, to capture negroes or Polynesians, to kidnap.

Black-birders. Kidnappers for labour purposes on the islands of the Pacific.

Black-book. *To be in the black books*, to be in disgrace, have incurred displeasure, to be out of favour.

Black box. A lawyer (*Grose*).

Black-boy. See Blackcoat.

Black Bracelets. Handcuffs: see Darbies (1839).

Black-cattle. 1. Clergymen, parsons. 2. Lice, active citizens (q.v.), chates (q.v.).

Black-cattle Show. A gathering of clergymen.

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Black-fly. A clergyman: see Devil-dodger (1811).

Black-foot. A go-between, match-maker (1814).

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Black House. A place of business where hours are long, and wages at starvation rates; a sweating house.

Black-humour. Melancholy.

Black Indies. Newcastle-on-Tyne: from its trade, coal: the term is now obsolete, but it was in common use at the latter part of the eighteenth century.

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Black job. A funeral.

Blackleg. 1. A turf swindler, rook, welcher; also one who cheats at cards or billiards: origin unknown: although many speculations have been hazarded, none are satisfactory (1771). 2. A workman who, when his fellows are on strike, is willing to go on working. 3. Also any one failing or refusing to join his fellows in combination for a given purpose. As verb, to boycott, to make things so uncomfortable for a man that he is compelled to leave his work or the town. *To blackleg it*, amongst trades' union men to return to work before the causes of a strike have been removed (or settled) to the satisfaction of the leaders.

Black-leggism, Black-leggery. Cheating, swindling, the arts and practices of a blackleg (q.v.) (1832).

Black-letter Day. An inauspicious day: cf. Red-letter day.

Black Literature. That printed in black letter (1797).

Blackmail (or **rent**). An illegal tribute (1533).

Black-man (Black Gentleman). The devil (1606).

Blackmans. See Darkmans.

Black Maria. A prison van or omnibus: used for the conveyance of prisoners: the origin of the phrase is unknown. A variant is Sable Maria.

Black Monday. A schoolboys' term for the Monday on which, after holidays, school re-opens.

Black Mouth. A foul-mouthed person, a slanderer. Hence *black-mouthed*, calumnious.

Black-mummer. One unwashed and unshorn.

Black-neb. A person of democratic sympathies at the time of the French Revolution.

Black-nob. A non-unionist, one who (while his fellows are on strike) persists in working at his trade, a blackleg (q.v.).

Black Ointment. Uncooked meat.

Black-pot. A toper, tippler, Lushington (q.v.) (1594).

Black Psalm. *To sing the black psalm*, to cry; a saying used to children (*Grose*).

Blacks. See Black horse.

Black Sal (or **Suke**). A kettle.

Black Sanctus. A burlesque hymn or anthem, rough music.

Black Saturday. A Saturday on which an artisan or mechanic has no money to take, having anticipated it by advances.

Black Sheep. A scapegrace, bad lot; *mauvais sujet*: also applied like blackleg and black-nob to workmen who persist in working when their comrades are on strike. As verb (Winchester College): when a fellow in Junior Part got above (or jockeyed) a fellow in Middle Part.

Blacksmith's Daughter. A key: formerly the key with which the doors of sponging houses were unlocked: also *Locksmith's daughter*.

Black-snake. A long whip-lash.

Black-spice Racket. Robbing chimney sweepers of their tools, bag, and soot (*Lexicon Balatronicum*).

Black Spy. The devil: Fr., *dache*.

Black-strap. 1. Thick, sweet port. 2. Properly speaking, gin mixed with molasses, but frequently applied to a compound of any alcoholic liquor with molasses: beverages of this description were at one time the commonest of drinks among agricultural labourers. 3. A task of labour imposed on soldiers at Gibraltar as a punishment for small offences (*Grose*).

Black-teapot. A negro footman.

Black Watch (The). The 42nd Foot; now the Royal Highlanders: from the colour of the dress.

Blackwork. Undertaking: waiters at public dinners are often employed during the day as mutes.

Blacky. A negro: cf. Darky.

Bladder. A pretentious person, windbag (q.v.).

Bladderdash. Nonsense, bunkum (q.v.), spoof (q.v.): a portmanteau word—bladder balderdash.

Bladder of Lard. A bald-headed person.

Bladderskate. See Bletherskate.

Blade. A roysterer, gallant, sharp, keen, free-and-easy man, good fellow (1595).

Blamed. Used to emphasize a statement: it partakes of the nature of an oath, being often used instead of doomed or damned: in America the expression is more of a colloquialism than it is in England (1835). Hence, *Blame it*! a round-about oath.

Blamenation! Damnation!

Blandiloquence. Smooth, flattering speech, carneying (q.v.). Hence *Blandiloquous*, smooth-speaking, flattering (1615).

Blank (Blanked, Blankety). Euphemistic oaths: clearly an outcome of the practice of representing an oath, for decency's sake, in printing, by a dash or blank space; e.g. d——d.

Blank-charter. Liberty to do as one likes.

Blank cheque. Unlimited credit.

Blanket. *Lawful blanket*; a wife: see Dutch. *Wet-blanket*, any thing or person that discourages, a damper

Black-book. *To be in the black books,* to be in disgrace, have incurred displeasure, to be out of favour.

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Black - mummer. One unwashed and unshorn.

Black-neb. A person of democratic sympathies at the time of the French Revolution.

Black - nob. A non-unionist, one who (while his fellows are on strike) persists in working at his trade, a blackleg (q.v.).

Black Ointment. Uncooked meat.

Black-pot. A toper, tippler, Lushington (q.v.) (1594).

Black Psalm. *To sing the black psalm*, to cry; a saying used to children (*Grose*).

Blacks. See Black horse.

Black Sal (or Suke). A kettle.

Black Sanctus. A burlesque hymn or anthem, rough music.

Black Saturday. A Saturday on which an artisan or mechanic has no money to take, having anticipated it by advances.

Black Sheep. A scapegrace, bad lot; *mauvais sujet*: also applied like blackleg and black-nob to workmen who persist in working when their comrades are on strike. As verb (Winchester College): when a fellow in Junior Part got above (or jockeyed) a fellow in Middle Part.

Blacksmith's Daughter. A key: formerly the key with which the doors of sponging houses were unlocked: also *Locksmith's daughter*.

Black-snake. A long whip-lash.

Black - spice Racket. Robbing chimney sweepers of their tools, bag, and soot (*Lexicon Balatronicum*).

Black Spy. The devil: Fr., *dache*.

Black-strap. 1. Thick, sweet port. 2. Properly speaking, gin mixed with molasses, but frequently applied to a compound of any alcoholic liquor with molasses: beverages of this description were at one time the commonest of drinks among agricultural labourers. 3. A task of labour imposed on soldiers at Gibraltar as a punishment for small offences (*Grose*).

Black-teapot. A negro footman.

Black Watch (The). The 42nd Foot; now the Royal Highlanders: from the colour of the dress.

Blackwork. Undertaking: waiters at public dinners are often employed during the day as mutes.

Blacky. A negro: cf. Darky.

Bladder. A pretentious person, windbag (q.v.).

Bladderdash. Nonsense, bunkum (q.v.), spoof (q.v.): a portmanteau word—bladder balderdash.

Bladder of Lard. A bald-headed person.

Bladderskate. See Bletherskate.

Blade. A roysterer, gallant, sharp, keen, free-and-easy man, good fellow (1595).

Blamed. Used to emphasize a statement: it partakes of the nature of an oath, being often used instead of doomed or damned: in America the expression is more of a colloquialism than it is in England (1835). Hence, *Blame it!* a round-about oath.

Blamenation! Damnation!

Blandiloquence. Smooth, flattering speech, carneying (q.v.). Hence *Blandiloquous*, smooth-speaking, flattering (1615).

Blank (Blanked, Blankety). Euphemistic oaths: clearly an outcome of the practice of representing an oath, for decency's sake, in printing, by a dash or blank space; e.g. d——d.

Blank - charter. Liberty to do as one likes.

Blank cheque. Unlimited credit.

Blanket. *Lawful blanket*; a wife: see Dutch. *Wet-blanket*, any thing or person that discourages, a damper (q.v.) (1830). *Born on the wrong side of the blanket*, illegitimate (1771).

Blanket Fair. Bed: cf. Bedfordshire, Sheet Alley, and Land of Nod.

Blanket-love. Illicit amours (1649).

Blarmed. A euphemism for blessed (q.v.); damned; blowed (q.v.); or blamed (q.v.), of the last of which it is probably a corruption.

Blarm me! A euphemistic oath.

Blarney. Blandishment, soft speech, or sawder, gross flattery, gammon. [From Castle Blarney in Ireland, in the wall of which, difficult of access, is placed a stone. Whoever is able to kiss this is said thereafter to be able to persuade to anything (*Grose*).] As verb, (1) to wheedle, coax, flatter grossly; (2) to pick locks (American thieves).

Blasted. Execrable, confounded: Grose has *blasted fellow* for an abandoned rogue (1682).

Blatantation. Noisy effusion, swagger.

Blater. A calf: probably a corruption of bleater (1714).

Blather. Noisy talk, voluble nonsense: cf. Blether. As verb, to talk volubly, noisily, nonsensically.

Blatherskite. 1. Boastful disputatious swagger: cf. Bletherskite. 2. A swaggerer, boaster, one who talks volubly and nonsensically.

Blayney's Bloodhounds. The Eighty-ninth Foot, now the second battalion of the Royal Irish Fusiliers: they obtained this nickname during the Irish Rebellion in 1798.

Blaze. *Blaze-away!* Look sharp; stir your stumps — an injunction to renewed and more effective effort.

Blazer. Originally applied to the uniform of the Lady Margaret Boat Club of St. John's College, Cambridge, which was of a bright red and was called a blazer: now applied to any light jacket of bright colour worn at cricket or other sports. Prof. Skeat [*N. and Q.*, 7 S., iii. 436] speaking of the Johnian blazer, says it was always of the most brilliant scarlet, and thinks it not improbable that the fact suggested the name which subsequently became general.

Blazes. 1. The infernal regions. As a verb, *to blaze* is employed in a manner closely bordering on slang: thus one says of an action that it is a *blazing* shame; that he has a *blazing* headache; that so-and-so is a *blazing* thief; that such a job is *blazing* hard work; that it is a *blazing* hot day. 2. The brilliant habiliments of flunkeys: from the episode of Sam Weller and the swarry. *Old blazes*, the devil. *Go to blazes!* Go to the devil; go to hell — used in imprecations (1851). *Like blazes*, vehemently, with extreme ardour. *How* (*Who*, or *What*) *the blazes*, How (What or Who) the Dickens. *Drunk as blazes* (or *blaizers*), very drunk, beastly drunk: see Screwed.

Bleach (Harvard University). To absent oneself from morning prayers.

Bleached Mort. A fair complexioned wench (*Grose*).

Bleak. Handsome.

Bleater. The victim of a sharper or rook (1609).

Bleating cheat. A sheep (1567).

Bleating Cull. A sheep stealer.

Bleating Prig (or **Rig**). Sheep stealing.

Bleed. 1. To be victimised, lose or part with money so that the loss is felt, be rushed (q.v.), have money drawn or extorted from one (1668). 2. To plane down so that the edge of a printed book is cut away. 3. To let water out (nautical). *To bleed the monkey*, to steal rum from the mess tub called the monkey: the term is exclusively naval, monkeys not being known on merchant ships: also called sucking the monkey and tapping the admiral.

Bleeder (University). 1. A duffer beyond compare, a superlative fool: see Buffle. 2. A sovereign: see Rhino. 3. A spur.

Bleeding. An expletive: cf. (Shakespeare), bleeding new.

Bleeding Cully. One who parts easily with his money, or bleeds freely (*Grose*).

Blenker. To plunder: much used during the Civil War.

Bless. To curse, damn. *To bless oneself*, to be surprised, vexed, mortified: generally, God bless me! Bless my eyes! Bless my soul! Lor' bless me! (1592). *Not a penny to bless oneself with*, utterly impecunious, without a sou (1843). *To bless one's stars*, to thank oneself, attribute one's good fortune to luck, generally in a ludicrous sense (1845).

Blessed (Blest). An ironical euphemism; often used like blazing for cursed, damned, etc., or as a vow (1806).

Blessing. A curse: ironical.

Blether Blather. Nonsense, rapid talk, voluble chatter (1787). Hence *Blethering*, volubly, foolishly talkative: cf. Bletherskate.

Bletherskate, Blatherskite. 1. Boastful swagger: in talk or action. 2. A boaster, noisy talker: in Ireland, *Bladder-skate*, and *Bladderum-skate* (1650).

Blew. 1. To inform, peach, expose, betray: see Blow upon. 2. To spend, waste: generally of money; when a man has spent or lost all his money, he is said to have blewed it.

Blimey! Blind me!

Blind. 1. A means or place of concealment (1647). 2. A pretence, shift, action through which one's real purpose is concealed, that which obstructs, make-believe (1663). 3. A paragraph [¶] mark is so called; from the eye of the reversed P being filled up. As adj., tipsy, in liquor: see Screwed. *Blind as a brickbat*, very blind—mentally or physically (1849). *When the devil is blind*, never: Fr., *le trente six du mois*, and *quand les poules auront des dents*. *To go it blind*, to enter upon an undertaking without thought as to the result, or inquiry beforehand: from poker.

Blind-drunk (or fou). So drunk as to be unable to see better than a blind man: see Screwed: Americans say, So drunk as not to be able to see through a ladder.

Blinder. *To take a blinder*, to die: see Hop the Twig.

Blind Half Hundred. The Fiftieth Regiment of Foot, now the first battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment): many men suffered from ophthalmia during the Egyptian campaign [1801].

Blind Harper. A beggar counterfeiting blindness, playing on a fiddle (*Grose*).

Blind-man's Holiday. Formerly, the night or darkness; now usually applied to the time between lights, when it is too dark to see, but often not dark enough to light up, and a holiday or rest from work is taken (1599).

Blind Monkeys. An imaginary collection at the Zoological Gardens, which are supposed to receive care and attention from persons fitted by nature for such office and for little else. An idle and useless person is often told that he is only fit to lead blind monkeys. Another form is for one man to tell another that he knows of a suitable situation for him. How much a week? and what to do? are natural questions, and then comes the scathing and sarcastic reply, Five bob a week at the doctor's—you're to stand behind the door and make the patients sick. They won't want no physic when they sees your mug (*Hotten*).

Blindo. A drunken spree. As verb, to die: see Hop the Twig.

Blind Side. The side that is weakest, the most assailable side (1606).

Blind Story. A story without point.

Blink. To drink: see Lush.

Blinker. 1. The eye: cf. Winker, Peeper, Optic, etc. (1816). 2. In pl. Spectacles, barnacles (1732). 3. In Norfolk, a black eye. 4. A hard blow in the eye. *Blank your blinkers*, a euphemistic oath.

Blink-fencer. A vendor of spectacles.

Blinko. An amateur entertainment, a free-and-easy (q.v.); a sing-song (q.v.).

Blister. Euphemistic for damn: cf. Blamed (1840).

Blizzard. 1. A poser, stunning blow, unanswerable argument, etc., etc. (1831). 2. A snow-gale, furious storm of frost-wind and blinding snow.

Bloak. See Bloke.

Bloat. 1. A drowned body. 2. A drunkard. 3. A contemptuous name for a human being.

Bloated Aristocrat. A man swollen with the pride of rank or wealth; also a general sobriquet applied by the masses to the classes. Bloated has long been employed in a similar sense. Swift spoke of a certain statesman as a bloated minister (1731).

Bloater. See My bloater.

Blob. To talk, patter. *Blob-tale*, a tell-tale, tale-bearer (1670).

Block. A stupid person, hard unsympathetic individual, one of mean, unattractive appearance (1534): see Buffle. *Barber's block* (1), the head (1637); (2) a fop. *A chip of the same* (or *old*) *block*, a man or thing exhibiting the same qualities as he or that with which a comparison is made (1627). *As deaf as a block*, as deaf as may be. *To cut a block with a razor*, inconsequent argument, futile endeavour, incongruous application of means (or ability) to the end in view (1774). *To block a hat*, to crush a man's hat over the eyes, to bonnet (q.v.).

Blockers. See Block ornaments.

Blockhead (or Block-pate). A stupid fellow, woodenhead; see Buffle.

Block House. A prison, house of detention: see Cage (1624).

Block Island Turkey, subs. (American). Salted cod-fish. Connecticut and Rhode Island. Slang delights in naming fish as flesh. For some curious examples, see Two-eyed Steak.

Block Ornament (or Blocker). 1. A small piece of meat of indifferent quality, a trimming from a joint, etc.: as exposed for sale on the blocks or counters of butchers' shops in cheap neighbourhoods, opposed to meat hung on hooks (1848). 2. A queer-looking man or woman—one odd in appearance.

Block-pate. See Blockhead.

Bloke (or Bloak). A man, fellow (1851).

Blood. 1. A fop, dandy, buck, or fast man: originally in common use, but now obsolete: from that legitimate sense of the word which attributes the seat of the passions and emotions to the blood—hence, a man of spirit; one who has blood worth mention, and, in an inferior sense, he who makes himself notorious, whether by dress or rowdyism: in the last century, especially during the regency of George IV., the term was largely in vogue to denote a young man of good birth or social standing about town; subsequently, it came to mean a riotous, disorderly fellow (1562). 2. Money: generic: see Rhino. As verb, to deplete of money, victimise: a figurative usage of to bleed; i.e. surgically, to let or draw blood by opening a vein.

Blood and Entrails. The British ensign is so nicknamed by Yankee sailors; English salts return the compliment by jokingly speaking of the American flag as The Gridiron and Doughboys (q.v.).

Blood and Thunder. A beverage of port wine and brandy mixed.

Blood and Thunder Tales. Low class fiction, the term being generally applied to works dealing with the exploits of desperadoes cut-throats, and other criminals: also called Awfuls, Penny dreadfuls, Gutter literature, Shilling shockers.

Blood-an'-'ouns. An abbreviated form of an old and blasphemous oath.

Blood-curdler (or Blood-freezer). A narration or incident which makes the flesh creep, that which stirs one's feelings strongly (and generally repulsively): said of a sensational murder, a thrilling ghost-story, etc.

Blood for Blood. When tradesmen exchange wares, setting the cost of one kind off against another instead of making payment in currency, they are said to give blood for blood.

Blood-Freezer. See Blood-curdler.

Blood-red Fancy. A particular kind of handkerchief sometimes worn by pugilists and frequenters of prize fights: see Billy.

Blood Suckers. The Sixty-third Regiment of Foot, now the first battalion of the Manchester Regiment. 2. An extortioner, sponger (1668).

Blood-tub. A rowdy, blustering bully, rough: this nickname was peculiar to Baltimore; the Blood-tubs were said to have been mostly butchers, and to have got their epithet from having, on an election day, dipped an obnoxious German's head in a tub of warm blood, and then driven him running through the town.

Bloody, adj. (low).—An intensive difficult to define, and used in a multitude of vague and varying senses, but frequently with no special meaning, much less a sanguinary one: generally = an emphatic, very: in general colloquial use from 1650-1750, but now vulgar or profane. The origin is not quite certain; but there is good reason to think that it was at first a reference to the habits of the bloods or aristocratic rowdies of the end of the 17th and beginning of the 18th cent. The phrase bloody drunk was apparently as drunk as a blood (cf. as drunk as a lord); thence it was extended to kindred expressions, and at length to others; probably in later times, its associations with bloodshed and murder (cf. a bloody battle, a bloody butcher) have recommended it to the rough classes as a word that appeals to their imagination. Compare the prevalent craving for impressive or graphic intensives as seen in the use of *jolly*, *awfully*, *terribly*, *devilish*, *deuced*, *damned*, *ripping*, *rattling*, *thumping*, *stunning*, *thundering*, etc.

Bloody Back. A soldier.

Bloody Chasm. *To bridge the bloody chasm*, a favourite expression with orators who, during the years immediately succeeding the Civil War, sought to obliterate the memory of the struggle. The antithetical phrase is to wave the bloody shirt (q.v.).

Bloody Eleventh. The Eleventh Regiment of Foot, now the Devonshire Regiment: at the battle of Salamanca (fought with the French) the corps was nearly cut to pieces, whence its sanguinary sobriquet. At Fontenoy and Ostend also, it was hard-pressed and nearly annihilated.

Bloody Jemmy. An uncooked sheep's head.

Bloody Shirt. *To wave the bloody shirt*, to keep alive factious strife on party questions. Primarily it was the symbol of those who, during the Reconstruction period at the close of the rebellion of the Southern or Confederate States, would not suffer the Civil War to sink into oblivion out of consideration for the feelings of the vanquished.

Bloomer. A mistake: said to be an abbreviated form of blooming error.

Blooming (often **Bloomin'**). This word, similar in type to blessed. blamed, and other words of the kind, is, as used by the lower classes, a euphemism, but it is also frequently employed as a mere meaningless intensitive (1726).

Bloss. Generic for a woman—girl, wife, or mistress: Shakespeare, in *Titus Andronicus* (1588, IV. ii. 72), employs it in the sense of one lovely and full of promise—Sweet blowse you are a beautious blossome sure; Tennyson (1847) in the *Princess* (v. 79), uses the expression, My babe, my blossom, ah, my child!

Blossom-faced. With red bloated face.

Blossom-nose. A tippler, Lushington (q.v.). *Blossom-nosed*, red with tippling: cf. Grog-blossom, Rum-bud.

Blot. *To blot the scrip*, to put an undertaking into writing: the modern phrase is, to put it in black and white. Hence, *To blot the scrip and jark it*, to stand engaged, bound for any one (*Grose*).

Bloviate. To talk aimlessly and boastingly, indulge in high falutin': said to have been in use since 1850.

Blow. 1. A shilling: see Rhino. 2. A drunken frolic, spree. As verb, (1) to boast, brag, gas, fume, storm—generally to talk boastfully or self-assertingly of oneself or one's affairs (1400); (2) to inform, expose, betray, peach (1575); (3) to lie; (4) employed euphemistically for damn — generally in the imperative—*Blow it!* hang it! (5) to lose or spend money: cf. Blue; (6) to indulge in a frolic or spree; (7) (Winchester School), to blush. *To bite the blow*, to steal goods, prig. *To blow a cloud*, to smoke. *To blow hot and cold*, to vacillate, be inconsistent; *to blow the bellows*, to stir up passion; *to blow off*, to relieve one's feelings, get rid of superfluous energy; *to blow into one's ear*, to whisper privily; *to blow one's own trumpet*, to brag, sound one's own praises; *to blow the coals* (or *the fire*), to fan the flame of discord, promote strife; *to blow up*, to scold, rate, rail at; *To blow great guns*, to blow a hurricane or violent gale: sometimes *to blow great guns and small arms* (1839). *To blow one's bazoo*, to boast, swagger, gasconade. *To blow oneself out*, to eat heartily, gorge: hence, *blow out*, a heavy feed (or entertainment), a tuck in. *To blow the gab* (or *gaff*), to reveal (or let out) a secret, peach (*Grose*). *To blow the grampus*, to throw cold water on a man who has fallen asleep when on duty. *To blow together*, to make garments in a slovenly manner. *To blow up sky-high*, to do everything with unusual energy. *To blow upon*, to betray, tell tales of, discredit, defame.

Blowboul (or **Bloboll**). A tippler: see Lushington.

Blow-book. A book containing indelicate or 'smutty' pictures (1708).

Blowed. *To be blowed*, Blowed is here a euphemism, frequently little more than a thinly-veiled oath. To be cursed, sent about one's business.

Blowen (or **Blowing**). Originally a woman, without special reference to moral character, now a showy courtesan or a prostitute (1688).

Blower. 1. A girl: contemptuous in opposition to jomer (q.v.) (*Grose*). 2. A good talker, boaster, gas-bag. 3. A pipe.

Blowhard. A Western term of abuse: a newcomer may, in one and the same breath, be called a blarsted Britisher, a coyote, and a blowhard.

Blowse (Blowsy, Blouze, Blowzy). 1. A beggar's trull, a wench. 2. A slatternly woman, especially one with dishevelled hair. Thought to be of canting origin.

Blowze. 1. A beggar's trull, beggar wench, wench (1573). 2. A fat, red-faced bloated wench, or one whose head is dressed like a slattern (*Bailey*).

Blubber. 1. The mouth: see Potato-trap (*Grose*). 2. A woman's breasts. As verb, to cry, weep: in contempt (1400): also Blab.

Blubber and Guts. Obesity; a low term.

Blubber-belly. A fat person.

Blubber Head. A foolish, empty-headed individual: see Buffle.

Blucher (ch. hard) (Winchester College). 1. A College præfect in half power: their jurisdiction does not extend beyond Seventh Chamber passage, though their privileges are the same as those of other præfects: they are eight in number. 2. A non-privileged cab plying at railway stations: railway companies recognise two classes of cabs, called the Privileged .... and the Bluchers, non-privileged cabs, which are admitted to stations after all the privileged have been hired, named after the Prussian Field-Marshal who arrived on the field of Waterloo only to do the work that chanced to be undone.

Bludgeoner. A bully, pimp, ponce.

Bludger. A thief, who does not hesitate to use violence; literally one who will use a bludgeon.

Bludget. A female thief, who decoys her victims into alley-ways, etc., to rob them.

Blue. 1. A policeman: from the colour of the uniform; also (collectively), Blues, Men in Blue, Blue-boys, Blue-bottles, Blue-devils, Royal Regiment of Foot-guards Blue. 2. Among licensed victuallers and their customers in certain districts of Wales a compromise between the half-pint and the pint pot; it is not recognised as a legal measure by the authorities, but the Board of Trade has pointed out to the local authorities that there is nothing in the Weights and Measures Act to prevent the use of the Blue or to make its possessor liable to penalties, always provided of course that the vessel is not used as a measure. 3. A scholar of Christ's Hospital: a blue-coat boy: also derived from the colour of the clothes—a blue drugget gown or body with ample skirts to it, a yellow vest underneath in winter time, small clothes of Russia duck, worsted yellow stockings, a leathern girdle, and a little black worsted cap, usually carried in the hand, being the complete costume; this was the ordinary dress of children in humble life in Tudor times. 4. Short for blue-stocking (q.v.); formerly a contemptuous term for a woman having (or affecting) literary tastes (1788). 5. Female learning or pedantry (1824). 6. At Oxford and Cambridge a man is said to get his blue when selected as a competitor in inter-university sports: the University colours are, for Oxford, dark blue; and for Cambridge, light blue: cf. to *get one's silk*, said of a barrister when made King's Counsel. As adj., (1) applied, usually in contempt, to women of literary tastes: Fr., *bleue celle-la;* (2) indecent; smutty; obscene; (3) gloomy, fearful, depressed, low-spirited: cf. to look blue, blue funk, and in the blues. As verb, (1) to blush (1709); (2) to pawn, pledge, spend, actually to get rid of money quickly: cf. Blew; (3) to miscalculate, to make a mess of anything, to mull; (4) to steal, plunder; *to be blued*, to be robbed: see Prig. *By all that's blue*, a euphemistic oath: probably by Heaven: it may be compared with the French *parbleu*, synonymous with *par Dieu*. *Till all is blue*, (1) to the utmost, the end, for an indefinite period: Smyth, in his *Sailors' Word Book*, says this phrase is borrowed from the idea of a vessel making out of port and getting into deep water; (2) tipsy: see Screwed

(1616): cf. Fr., *avoir un coup d'bleu*. *To look blue*, to be confounded, surprised, astonished, annoyed, disappointed. Fr., *en rester tout bleu, en être bleu, en bailler tout bleu* (1600). *To make the air blue*, to curse, swear. *True blue*, faithful, genuine, real: an allusion to blue as the colour of constancy (1383).

Blue Apron. A tradesman (1721).

Bluebacks. 1. The paper money of the Confederates: originating, as in the case of United States paper currency greenbacks, in the colour of the printing on the reverse. 2. The Orange Free State paper money.

Blue Bellies. A nickname bestowed by Southerners, during the Civil War, upon their opponents of the North, whose uniform was blue: also Boys in blue, Yanks, etc. The Southerners, on the other hand, received such names as The secesh, Rebs, and Johnny Rebs, the latter being sometimes shortened to Johnnies. The grey uniform of the Confederates likewise caused them to be styled Boys in grey, and Greybacks.

Blue Bills (Winchester College). A tradesman's bills sent home to the parents and guardians of students.

Blue Billy. A handkerchief (blue ground with white spots) sometimes worn and used as a colour at prize-fights: see Billy.

Blue Blanket. 1. The sky: probably suggested by Shakespeare's Blanket of the dark (*Macbeth*, I. v.) (1720). 2. A rough overcoat made of coarse pilot cloth.

Blue Blazes. See Blazes.

Blue Boar. A venereal disease.

Blue Bottle. 1. A policeman, constable, watchman (1598). 2. A serving-man: blue was the usual habit of servants (1602). 3. A term of reproach for a servant.

Blue Boy. A bubo, a tumour or abscess with inflammation.

Blue-boys. The police.

Blue Butter. Mercurial ointment.

Blue-cap. A Scotchman (1596). 2. A kind of ale (1822).

Blue-coat. 1. A constable, guardian of public order. 2. A serving man, and, 3. (generally) one of the lower orders: as wearing coats of blue (1600). 4. A blue-coat boy: see Blue.

Blued (or Blewed). Tipsy, drunk: see Screwed.

Blue Dahlia. Something rare (or seldom seen), a *rara avis*.

Blue Devils. 1. Dejection, lowness of spirits, hypochondria (1786). 2. *Delirium tremens* (1818). Hence, such derivatives as Blue devilage, Blue devilry, Blue devilism; and Blue devilly.

Blue Fear. Extreme fright: the same as Blue funk (q.v.).

Blue Flag. A blue apron (q.v.) worn by butchers, publicans, and other tradesmen (*Grose*).

Blue Funk. Extreme fright, nervousness, dread (1856).

Blue-gown. 1. A loose woman: a blue-gown was the dress of ignominy for a harlot in the house of correction (*Nares*). 2. A beggar, especially a licensed beggar who wore the dress as a badge.

Blue Hen's Chickens. The inhabitants of Delaware. The nickname arose thus: Captain Caldwell, an officer of the first Delaware regiment in the American War of Independence, was noted for his love of cock-fighting. Being personally popular, and his regiment becoming famous for their valour, they were soon known as game-cocks; and as Caldwell maintained that no cock was truly game unless its mother was a blue hen, his regiment, and subsequently Delawareans generally, became known as blue hen's chickens, and Delaware as the Blue Hen State for the same reason. A boaster is also often brought to book by the sarcasm Your mother was a blue hen no doubt.

Blue Horse. The Fourth Dragoon Guards (1746-88).

Blue-jacket. A sailor; especially used to distinguish seamen from the marines.

Blue Laws. Puritanic laws of extreme severity: originally of enactments at New Haven, Conn., U.S.A.

Blue Lightning. A revolver.

Blue Monday. A Monday spent in dissipation and absence from work.

Blue Moon. *Once in a blue moon*, extremely seldom, an unlimited time, a rarely recurring period: an old phrase, first used in the sense of something absurd; a blue moon, like the Greek Kalends, is something which does not exist (1526).

Blue Murder (or Blue Murders)

Cries of terror (or alarm), a great noise, an unusual racket: cf. Fr., *morbleu*.

Blueness. Indecency (1840). Fr., *horreurs, bêtises, gueulées.*

Blue Noses. The natives of Nova Scotia: in allusion, it is said, to a potato of that name which Nova Scotians claim to be the best in the world; Proctor, however, hazards the suggestion that the nickname refers to the blueness of nose resulting from intense cold (1837).

Blue Peter. The signal or call for trumps at whist: properly a blue flag with white square in centre, hoisted as a signal for immediate sailing.

Blue Pigeon. 1. Lead used for roofing purposes: see Blue pigeon flyer. 2. The sounding lead.

Blue Pigeon Flyer. A thief who steals lead from the roofs of buildings. Hotten thus explains the *modus operandi*. Sometimes a journeyman plumber, glazier, or other workman, when repairing houses, strips off the lead, and makes away with it. This performance is, though, by no means confined to workmen. An empty house is often entered and the whole of the roof in its vicinity stripped, the only notice given to the folks below being received by them on the occasion of a heavy downfall of rain. The term flyer has, indeed, of late years been more peculiarly applied to the man who steals the lead in pursuance of his vocation as a thief, than to him who takes it because it comes in the way of his work (1789). Fr., *limousineur, gras-doublier, mastaroufleur. To fly the blue pigeon*, to steal lead from the roofs of houses.

Blue Pill. A bullet; also *Blue plum* and *Blue whistler.*

Blue Ribbon (or Riband). A first prize, the greatest distinction.

Blue Ruin. Gin: see Drinks (1817).

Blues. 1. Despondency, hypochondria, depression of spirits: a shortened form of blue devils (q.v.). 2. The police. 3. The Royal Horse Guards Blue are popularly so known from their blue uniform with scarlet facings: the corps first obtained the name of Oxford Blues in 1690, to distinguish it from a Dutch regiment of Horse Guards dressed in blue, commanded by the Earl of Portland, the former being commanded by the Earl of Oxford; subsequently the regiment was, during the campaign in Flanders [1742-45], known as the Blue Guards.

Blue Skin. 1. Formerly a contemptuous term for a Presbyterian. 2. A half-breed—the child of a black woman by a white man.

Blue Squadron. Mixed blood; properly one with a Hindoo strain: Eurasians belong to the blue squadron: cf. Touch of the tar brush.

Blue Stocking. A literary lady: applied usually with the imputation of pedantry. The generally received explanation, is that the term is derived from the name given to certain meetings held by ladies in the days of Dr. Johnson for conversation with distinguished literary men. One of the most eminent of these literati was a Mr. Benjamin Stillingfleet, who always wore blue stockings, and whose conversation at these meetings was so much prized, that his absence at any time was felt to be a great loss, so that the remark became common, We can do nothing without the blue stockings, hence these meetings were sportively called blue-stocking clubs, and the ladies who attended them blue-stockings. It is stated that the name specially arose in this way. A foreigner of rank refused to accompany a friend to one of these parties on the plea of being in his travelling costume, to which there was the reply, Oh! we never mind dress on these occasions; you may come in *bas bleus* or blue stockings, with allusion to Stillingfleet's stockings, when the foreigner, fancying that *bas bleus* were part of the necessary costume, called the meeting ever after the Bas-bleu Society. In modern slang the term blue-stocking is abbreviated into *blue*. Derivatives are *blue-stockingism, blue-stockinger*, etc. (1738).

Blue Stone. Gin (or whisky) of so bad a quality that it can only be compared to vitriol, of which *blue-stone* is also a nickname in the north of England and Scotland.

Blue Tape. Gin: see Drinks.

Blue Water. The open sea.

Blue Whistler. A bullet.

Bluey. 1. Lead: see Blue pigeon. 2. A bushman's bundle, the outside wrapper of which is generally a blue blanket—hence the name: also called swag (q.v.) and drum (q.v.).

Bluey-hunter. A thief who steals lead, as described under Blue pigeon flyer (q.v.) (1851).

Bluff. An excuse, pretence, that which is intended to hoodwink or blind. As verb, to turn aside, stop, hoodwink, to blind as to one's real intention.

Bluffer. 1. An innkeeper (*Grose*). 2. A bo'sun.

Blunderbuss. A stupid blundering fellow: see Buffle (*Grose*).

Blunt. Generic for money, especially ready money: see Rhino (1714).

Blunted. Possessed of money, in comfortable circumstances, warm (q.v.)

Blunt-worker. A blunderer (1440). *Blunt-working*, blundering.

Blunty. A stupid fellow, one slow-witted: see Buffle.

Blur-paper. A scribbler (1603).

Blush. *To blush like a black or blue dog*, to blush not at all (1579).

Blushet. A modest girl, a little blusher (1625).

B. N. C. Brasenose: the initials of Brasen Nose College, Oxford: in spite of the nose over the gate, the probability is that the real name was Brasinium; it is still famous for its beer.

Bo (or **Boh**). *To cry* (or *say*) *Bo to a goose* (*battledore*, *bull*, etc.), to open one's mouth, to speak.

Boanerges. A loud, vociferous speaker: i.e. a son of thunder (Mark iii. 17).

Board. 1. To borrow. 2. To accost, ask of, make a demand; i.e. to come to close quarters (1547). *To board in the smoke*, to take one unawares, or by surprise. *On the board*, enjoying all the privileges and emoluments of a competent workman: when an apprentice becomes a regular journeyman he goes on the board: tailors usually work squatting on a low raised platform—hence possibly the expression. *To keep one's name on the board*, to remain a member of a College. *To sweep the board*, to pocket all the stakes. *To begin the board*, to take precedence. *To go by the board*, to go for good and all, be completely done for, ruined. *To sail on another board*, to change one's tactics.

Boarding House (or **School**). Newgate: but equally applicable to any gaol—New York thieves apply it to the Tombs: see Cage.

Boardman. A standing patterer: they endeavour to attract attention to their papers, or, more commonly, pamphlets . . . by means of a board with coloured pictures upon it, illustrative of the contents of what they sell: this in street technology is board work: sometimes called a sandwich man.

Board of Green Cloth. A card (or billiard) table.

Boat. Formerly the hulks; latterly to any prison: see Cage. *To have an oar in another's boat*, to meddle, busybody. *To sail in the same boat*, to pursue the same course. As verb, (1) originally to transport: the term is now applied to penal servitude. *To get the boat* (or *to be boated*), to be sentenced to a long term of imprisonment—equivalent to transportation under the old system; (2) to join as partner: evidently a corruption of to be in the same boat, i.e. to be in the same position or circumstances. *To bail one's own boat*, to be self-reliant, *to paddle one's own canoe*.

Bob. 1. A shilling: see Rhino (1812). 2. A shoplifter's assistant; one who receives and carries off stolen goods: Fr., *nonne* (or *noune*). 3. Gin: see Drinks (1749). 4. An infantry soldier; generally Light-bob, i.e. a soldier of the light infantry (1544). 5. (Winchester College). A large white jug containing about a gallon in measure, and used for beer. As adj., lively, nice, in good spirits (1721). As verb, to cheat, trick, disappoint: also to *bob out of* (1605). As intj., Stop! That's enough! *Dry bob* (*Wet bob*) (Eton College), the first-named is one who devotes himself to cricket or football and other land sports; the latter one who goes in for rowing and aquatics generally (1844). *All is bob*, All's safe, serene, gay (1786). *Bear a bob!* Be brisk! look sharp! *To give the bob*, (1) to give the door: used by Massinger—It can be no other but to give me the bob; (2) to befool, mock, impose upon. *S'help me bob*, a street oath, equivalent to So help me God; a corrupted form of the legal oath: So help is pronounced *swelp*: also *s'help the cat—my greens—the taturs*, etc. *To shift one's bob*, to go away.

Bobber. 1. A fellow-workman, mate, chum. 2. A spurious plural of bob (q.v.)=a shilling.

Bobbery. A noise, squabble, disturbance, racket (1813).

Bobbish. Frequently pretty bobbish, i.e. hearty, in good health and spirits, clever, spruce (1819); also bobbishly.

Bobby. A policeman: this nickname, though possibly not derived from, was certainly popularised by the fact that the Metropolitan Police Act of 1828 was mainly the work of Mr., afterwards Sir Robert Peel. Long before that statesman remodelled the police, however, the term Bobby the beadle was in use to signify a guardian of a public square or other open space. There seems, however, a lack of evidence, and examples of its literary use prior to 1851 have not been discovered. At the Universities the Proctors are or used to be called bobbies.

Bobby-twister. A burglar or thief (q.v.), who, when resisting pursuit or capture, uses violence.

Bob-cull. A good fellow, pleasant companion.

Bob my pal. A girl, i.e. gal.

Bobstick. A shilling's worth.

Bob Tail. 1. A lewd woman. 2. A contemptible fellow—*Tag, rag, and bobtail.* See Tag.

Bocardo. A prison: see Cage: specially the prison in the old North Gate of Oxford, demolished in 1771.

Boco. 1. The nose: see Conk. 2. Nonsense, bosh.

Bodier. A blow on the side of the body.

Bodkin. Amongst sporting men, a person who takes his turn between the sheets on alternate nights, when an hotel has twice as many visitors as it can comfortably lodge; as, for instance, during a race-week. A transferred sense from *To ride* (or *sit*) *bodkin*, to take a place and be wedged in between other persons when the accommodation is intended for two only (1638).

Body-cover. A coat.

Body of Divinity Bound in Black Calf. A parson: see Devil-dodger.

Body-slangs. Fetters: see Darbies (1819).

Body-snatcher. 1. A bailiff or runner: the snatch was the trick by which the bailiff captured the delinquent. 2. A policeman. 3. A generally objectionable individual: also *mean body snatcher.* 4. A violator of graves, resurrectionist: also Body-lifter (1833). 5. An undertaker.

Bog. 1. The works at Dartmoor, on which convicts labour; during recent years a large quantity of land has been reclaimed in this way. 2. An abbreviated form of bog-house (q.v.). As verb, to ease oneself, evacuate.

Bogey. See Bogy.

Boggle-de-Botch (**Boggledy-Botch**). A bungle, mess, hash: Boggle, however, is more frequently employed (1834).

Bog-house (**Bog-shop**). A privy, necessary house (1671).

Boglander. An Irishman: from the boggy and marshy character of a considerable portion of the Emerald Isle (1698).

Bog Latin. A spurious mode of speech simulating the Latin in construction: see Dog Latin.

Bog-oranges. Potatoes: see Bogland, with an eye to the vegetable in question forming a very substantial food staple of the Irish peasantry.

Bog-trotter. An Irishman: Camden, however (*c.* 1605), speaking of the debateable land on the borders of England and Scotland, says, Both these dales breed notable bog-trotters; so the original sense would appear to have been, accustomed to walk across bogs; as a nickname for an Irishman, it dates at least from 1671. Bog-trotting, living among bogs; e.g. a bog-trotting Irishman (1758).

Bogus. Spurious, fictitious, sham, not what it professes to be: of American origin. Dr. Murray, who, while slily satirising the bogus derivations circumstantially given, says: Dr. S. Willard, of Chicago, in a letter to the editor of this Dictionary, quotes from the *Painesville* (Ohio) *Telegraph* of July 6 and Nov. 2, 1827, the word bogus as a subs., applied to an apparatus for coining false money. Mr. Eber D. Howe, who was then editor of that paper, describes in his *Autobiography* (1878) the discovery of such a piece of mechanism in the hands of a gang of coiners at Painesville, in May 1827; it was a mysterious-looking object, and some one in the crowd *styled* it a bogus, a designation adopted in the succeeding numbers of the paper. Dr. Willard considers this to have been short for *tantrabogus*, a word familiar to him from his childhood, and which in his father's time was commonly applied in Vermont to any ill-looking object; he points out that *tantrabobs* is given in Halliwell as a Devonshire word for the devil. [Bogus seems thus to be related to bogy, etc.] (1825).

Bogy, Bogey. A landlord: Fr., *Monsieur Vautour* (*vautour* = a vulture). Ask *Bogy*, a reply to a question (*Grose*): modern God knows! or Bramah knows! under similar circumstances. As adj., sombre, dark in tint: said of a painting exhibiting these characteristics.

Bohemian. A gipsy of society; one who either cuts himself off, or is by his habits cut off, from society for which he is otherwise fitted; especially an artist, literary man, or actor, who leads a free, vagabond, or irregular life, not being particular as to the society he frequents, and despising conventionality generally: used with considerable latitude, with or without reference to morals (*O.E.D.*).

Bohn (American College). A translation, pony (q.v.): the volumes of Bohn's *Classical Library* are in such general use among under-graduates in American Colleges, that Bohn has become a common name for a translation.

Boil. To betray, peach (1602). *To boil down*, to reduce in bulk by condensing or epitomising. *To boil the pot*, to gain (or supply) one's livelihood. *To keep the pot boiling*, to keep going. *The blood boils*, of strong emotion, anger, or resentment. *To boil one's lobster*, to enter the army after having been in the church.

Boiled Shirt (**Biled Shirt** or **Boiled Rag**). A white shirt (1854).

Boiler (Winchester College). 1. A plain coffee-pot used for heating water: called fourpenny and sixpenny boilers, not from their price, but from the quantity of milk they will hold: τὸ παν boilers were large tin saucepan-like vessels in which water for hot bidets (q.v.) was heated. 2. See Pot boiler.

Boiler - plated. Imperturbable, stolid, stoical.

Boilers (or **Brompton Boilers**). 1. The Kensington Museum and School of Art, in allusion to the peculiar form of the temporary buildings, and the fact of their being mainly composed of, and covered with sheet iron. This has been changed since the extensive alterations in the building, or rather pile of buildings, and the term boilers is now applied to the Bethnal Green Museum: cf. Pepper-boxes. 2. (Royal Military Academy). Boiled potatoes: Fried potatoes are called Greasers.

Boiling (or **Biling**). *Whole boiling* (or *biling*), the whole lot, entire quantity: also *whole gridiron* (q.v.) and All the shoot (1835).

Boke. The nose.

Bold. *Bold as brass*, audaciously forward, presumptuous, without shame.

Boler (or **Bowler**). A stiff felt hat (1861).

Bolly (Marlborough College). Pudding.

Bolt. The throat (1821). As verb (at one period slang, now recognised), 1. To escape, leave suddenly: an instance of a word once orthodox, subsequently fell into disrepute, but which, after having for generations served as a mere slang term, is now nearly as respectable as when Dryden wrote: I have reflected on those who, from time to time, have shot into the world, some bolting out on the stage with vast applause, and others hissed off. 2. The usage in the United States indicates the right of the independently minded to revolt against partisan rule, as He bolted the party nominations: also substantively, as He has organised a bolt. 3. To eat hurriedly without chewing, swallow whole, gulp down. *To get the bolt*, sentenced to penal servitude. *To turn the corner of Bolt Street*, to run: cf. Queer Street. See Moon.

Bolter. 1. One who hides himself in his own house, or some privileged place, and dares only peep, but not go out of his retreat (*Dyche*): the privileged places referred to were such as Whitefriars, the Mint, Higher and Lower Alsatia, etc. 2. One who bolts; especially applied to horses, but figuratively to persons in the sense of one given to throwing off restraint;

in American parlance one who kicks (q.v.) (1840). 3. One who exercises the right of abstention in regard to his political party.

Bolt-in-Tun. Bolted, run away (1819). A term founded on the cant word bolt, and merely a fanciful variation very common among flash persons, there being in London a famous inn so called; it is customary when a man has run away from his lodgings, broken out of jail, or made any other sudden movement, to say, the Bolt-in-tun is concerned, or, he's gone to the Bolt-in-tun instead of simply saying, he has bolted, etc.

Boltsprit (Boltspreet, Bowsprit). The nose: see Conk (1690).

Bolus. An apothecary, a doctor.

Boman. A gallant fellow.

Bombay Ducks. 1. The Bombay regiments of the East India Company's army. 2. A well-known delicacy: the Anglo-Indian relation of the Digby chick; alive, it is a fish called the bummelo; dead and dried, it becomes a duck.

Bombo, Bumbo. A nickname given to various mixtures, but chiefly to cold punch; Smollett, in a note in *Roderick Random*, speaks of it as A liquor composed of rum, sugar, water, and nutmeg (1748).

Bona. A girl, young woman, belle: a modern form, in a good sense, of Bona-roba (q.v.). As adj., good.

Bonanza. A happy hit, stroke of fortune, success: from the Spanish, a fair wind, fine weather, prosperous voyage; Bonanza was originally the name of a mine in Nevada, which once, quite unexpectedly, turned out to be a big thing, and of enormous value; now applied to any lucky hit or successful enterprise.

Bona-roba, subs. (old). A wench, specially a courtesan, a showy wanton. The term was much in use among the older dramatists. Ben Jonson speaks of a bouncing bona-roba; and Cowley seems to have considered it as implying a fine, tall figure. Bona in modern times is frequently employed to signify a girl or young woman, without reference to morals (1589).

Bonce. 1. The head (probably a derivative of sense 2) 2. A large marble (origin unknown, but see Alley).

Bond. *Our Lady's bonds*, pregnancy, confinement.

Bone. 1. A bribe to a Customs House officer. 2. Something relished (1884). As adj., good, excellent; ◇ is the vagabonds' hieroglyphic for bone, or good, chalked by them on houses and street corners as a hint to succeeding beggars. As verb, (1) to filch, steal, make off with, take into custody (1748); (2) to bribe, grease the palm; (3) to study: see Bohn. *To bone standing*, to study hard. *The ten bones*, the fingers: as in asseveration, By these ten bones! *To have a bone in the leg* (*arm, throat*, etc.), a humorous reason for declining to do anything, a feigned obstacle (1542). *Hard* (or *dry*) *as a bone*, as hard (or dry) as may be (1833). *Bones of me* (*you*, etc.), an exclamation (1588). *To feel a thing in one's bones*, to feel acutely, understand perfectly. *A bone to pick*, a difficulty to solve, nut to crack, a matter of dispute, something disagreeable needing explanation, a settlement to make. *A bone of contention*, a source of contention or discord. *To make bones of*, to make objection to, have scruples of, hesitate. *To find bones in*, to be unable to credit, believe, or swallow. *To put a bone in one's hood*, to break one's head. *To carry a bone in the mouth* (or *teeth*), of a ship when cutting through the water making foam about her. *One end is pretty sure to be bone*, an old-time saying equivalent to an admission that All is not gold that glitters; that the realization of one's hopes never comes up to the ideal formed of them. *To be upon the bones*, to attack (1616).

Bone-ache. The *lues venerea* (1592).

Bone-baster. A staff, cudgel (1600).

Bone-box. The mouth: see Potato-trap (*Grose*).

Bone-breaker. Fever and ague.

Bone-crusher. A heavy-bore rifle used for killing big game.

Boned. See Bone, verb, sense 1.

Bone-grubber. 1. One who lives by collecting bones from heaps of refuse, selling his spoils at the marine stores or to bone grinders (1750). 2. A resurrectionist, a violator of graves: Cobbett was therefore called a bone-grubber, because he brought the remains of Tom Paine from America.

Bone-house. 1. The human body. 2. A coffin: also a charnel-house: Americans generally call a cemetery a bone-yard (1836).

Bone Muscle. To practise gymnastics.

Bone-picker. 1. A footman: Fr., *larbin.* 2. A collector of bones, rags, and other refuse from the streets and places where rubbish is placed, for the purpose of sale to marine dealers and crushers: the same as bone-grubber.

Bone-polisher. The cat-o'-nine-tails.

Boner (Winchester College). A sharp blow on the spine.

Bones. 1. Dice, also called St. Hugh's bones (q.v.) *To rattle the bones,* to play at dice (1386). 2. Pieces of bones held between the fingers and played Spanish castanet fashion: generally an accompaniment to banjo and other negro minstrel music (1592). 3. A member of a negro minstrel troupe; generally applied to one of the end men who plays the bones (sense 2) (1851). 4. The bones of the human body, but more generally applied to the teeth: Fr., *piloches, osselots.* 5. A surgeon; generally sawbones (q.v.). 6. (*a*) The shares of Wickens, Pease and Co.; (*b*) North British 4% 1st Preference Shares, the 4% 2nd Preference Stock being nicknamed Bonettas. *One end is pretty sure to be bone*: an old-time saying equivalent to an admission that All is not gold that glitters; that the realization of one's hopes never comes up to the ideal formed of them. *To be upon the bones,* to attack.

Bonesetter. A hard riding horse, ricketty conveyance: see Boneshaker (*Grose*).

Bone-shake. To ride a boneshaker (q.v.).

Bone-shaker. 1. A hard trotting horse: see Bone-setter. 2. An ordinary, as distinguished from a safety, a type of bicycle in use prior to the introduction of india-rubber tires and other manifold improvements.

Bonettas. The 4% 2nd North British 2nd Preference Stock.

Bong. See Boung.

Boniface. The landlord of a tavern or inn, mine host: from Farquhar's play of The Beaux' Stratagem (1707).

Boning. *Boning adjutant,* aping a military bearing. *Boning muscle* (q.v.) going in largely for gymnastics. *Boning demerit,* giving no cause for complaint as regards one's conduct: all West Point cadet slang.

Bonk. A short, steep hill.

Bonnering. Burning for heresy (1613): cf. Boycott, Burke, Maffick, etc.

Bonnet. 1. A gambling cheat, decoy at auctions; sometimes called a bearer up: the bonnet plays as though he were a member of the general public, and by his good luck, or by the force of his example, induces others to venture their stakes; bonneting is often done in much better society than that to be found in the ordinary gaming-rooms; a man who persuades another to buy an article on which he receives commission or percentage, is said to bonnet or bear-up for the seller (1812). 2. A pretext, pretence, make believe. 3. A woman: cf. petticoat. As verb, (1) to act as a bonnet, cheat, puff, to bear up (q.v.); (2) to crush a hat over a man's eyes (1835). *To have a green bonnet,* to fail in business. *A bee in one's bonnet,* see Bee. *To fill a person's bonnet,* to fill his place, equal him. *To rive the bonnet of,* to excel.

Bonnet-builder. A milliner (1839).

Bonneter. 1. See Bonnet. 2. A crushing blow on the hat.

Bonnet-laird. A petty proprietor in Scotland: as wearing a bonnet like humbler folk.

Bonnet-man. A highlander.

Bonnets-so-blue. Irish stew.

Bonny. Looking well, plump. 2. Fine, good, very. *To give a bonny penny for,* to pay a long price. *A bonny row,* a jolly uproar.

Bono. Good: from the Latin.

Booby. 1. A stupid fellow, lubber, clown: see Buffle. 2. A dunce, the last in a class. *To beat the booby,* see Beat.

Booby Hutch. A police station.

Booby-trap. An arrangement of books, wet sponges, vessels of water, etc., so arranged on the top of a door set ajar that when the intended victim enters the room the whole falls on him (1850).

Boodle. 1. A crowd, company, the whole boiling (q.v.): often *caboodle* (q.v.). 2. Capital, stock-in-trade: specially something secret, peculiar and illegal; also money used for bribery, money that comes as spoils, the result of some secret deal, the profits of which are silently divided; the term is likewise used to cover the booty of a bank robber, or the absconding cashier. Amongst the thieving fraternity boodle is used to denote money that is actually spurious or counterfeit, and not merely money used for nefarious purposes, but which as currency is genuine enough. 3. Generic for money: see Rhino. 4. A fool, noodle: see Buffle. *To carry boodle,* to utter base money. *Fake-boodle,* a roll of paper over which, after folding, a dollar bill is pasted, and another bill being loosely wrapped round this, it looks as if the whole roll is made up of a large sum of money in bills.

Boodler. 1. One who bribes or corrupts. 2. A man uttering base money: swindlers of this type generally hunt in couples; one carrying the bulk of the counterfeit money, and receiving the good change as obtained by his companion, who utters the boodle piece by piece; the game is generally worked so that at the slightest alarm the boodle carrier vanishes and leaves nothing to incriminate his confederate.

Booget. A travelling tinker's basket (*Harman*) (1567).

Book. 1. In betting (more especially in connection with horse-racing), an arrangement of bets made against certain horses, and so calculated that the bookmaker (q.v.) has a strong chance of winning something whatever the result (1836). *By the book,* formally, in set phrase. *In a person's good* (or *bad*) *books,* in favour (or disfavour). *Out of one's book,* mistaken, out of one's reckoning. *Without one's book* (1) unauthorised, (2) by rote. *To drive to book,* to compel to give evidence on oath. *To bring to book,* to bring to account. *To speak like a book,* to speak with authority. *To talk like a book,* to speak in set terms, as a precisian. *To take a leaf out of a person's book,* to take example by him. 2. The first six tricks at whist. 3. The copy of words to which music is set, the words of a play: formerly only applied to the libretto of an opera (1768). *To know one's book,* to have made up one's mind, to know what is best for one's interest. *To suit one's book,* to suit one's arrangements, fancy, or wish.

Book Answerer. A critic (1760).

Booked. Caught, fixed, disposed of, destined, etc. (1840).

Book-form. The relative powers of speed (or endurance) of race-horses as set down in the *Racing Calendar* or book.

Bookie (or Booky). A bookmaker (q.v.).

Bookmaker. A professional betting-man. The *English Encyclopædia* says:—In betting there are two parties—one called layers, as the bookmakers are termed, and the other backers, in which class may be included owners of horses as well as the public. The backer takes the odds which the bookmaker lays against a horse, the former speculating upon the success of the animal, the latter upon its defeat; and taking the case of Cremorne for the Derby of 1872, just before the race, the bookmaker would have laid 3 to 1, or perhaps £1000 to £300 against him, by which transaction, if the horse won, as he did, the backer would win £1000 for risking £300, and the bookmaker lose the £1000 which he risked to win the smaller sum. At first sight this may appear an act of very questionable policy on the part of the bookmaker; but really it is not so, because so far from running a greater risk than the backer, he runs less, inasmuch as it is his plan to lay the same amount (£1000) against every horse in the race, and as there can be but one winner, he would in all probability receive more than enough money from the many losers to pay the stated sum of £1000 which the chances are he has laid against the one winner, whichever it is (1862).

Bookmaker's Pocket. A breast-pocket made inside the waistcoat, for notes of large amount (*Hotten*).

Books. 1. A pack of cards; used mainly by professional card-players: also called devil's books, book of broads, book of briefs: Fr., *juge de paix, cartouchière a portées* (a prepared pack used by sharpers) (1706). 2. (Winchester College). (*a*) The prizes formerly presented by Lord Say and Sele, now given by the governing body, to the Senior in each division at the end of Half. (*b*) The school is thus divided:—Sixth Book—Senior and Junior Division; the whole of the rest of the School is in Fifth Book—Senior Part, Middle Part, Junior Part, each part being divided into so many divisions, Senior, Middle, and Junior, or Senior, 2nd, 3rd, and Junior, as the case may require.

Formerly, there was also Fourth Book, but it ceased to exist about twenty-five years ago (1840). (*c*) *Up at books*, in class, repeating lessons: now called *Up to books*. (*d*) *Books chambers*, on Remedies (a kind of whole holiday), we also went into School in the morning and afternoon for an hour or two without masters; this was called books chambers; and on Sundays, from four till a quarter to five. (*Mansfield*). (*e*) *To get* or *make books*, to make the highest score at anything.

Bookwork. Mathematics that can be learned *verbatim* from books —all that are not problems.

Bookwright. An author.

Boom. This word is a comparatively recent production in its slang sense; and is used in a variety of combinations; as, The whole State is booming for Smith, or The boys have whooped up the State to boom for Smith, or The State boom is ahead in this State, etc., etc. Stocks and money are said to be booming when active; and any particular spot within a flourishing district is regarded as within the boom-belt. A successful team or party is said to be a booming squad, and we even read of boomlets to express progress of a lesser degree. As subs. commercial activity, rapid advance in prices, flourishing state of affairs — synonymous with extreme vigour and effectiveness (1875). As verb, to make rapid and vigorous progress, advance by leaps and bounds, push, puff, bring into prominence with a rush (1874). *To top one's boom off*, to be off (or to start) in a certain direction.

Boomer. 1. One who booms or causes an enterprise to become flourishing, active or notorious. 2. Anybody (or anything) considerably above the average: a bouncing lie, a fine woman, a horse with extra good points, etc., etc.

Boomerang. Acts or words, the results of which recoil upon the person from whom they originate: the boomerang is properly an Australian missile weapon which, when thrown, can be made to return to the thrower; or which, likewise, can be caused to take an opposite direction to that in which it is first thrown (1845).

Booming. Flourishing, active, in good form, large, astonishing.

Boom-passenger. A convict on board ship: prisoners on board convict ships were chained to, or were made to crawl along or stand on the booms for exercise or punishment (*Hotten*).

Boon-companion. A comrade in a drinking bout, a good fellow (1566).

Boon-companionship. Jollity, conviviality (1592).

Boong. See Bung.

Boorde. See Bord.

Boost. A hoisting, shove, lift, push up — a New England vulgarism (1858). As verb, to hoist, lift up, shove.

Boosy. See Boozy.

Boot. To beat, punish with a strap: the punishment is irregular and unconventional, being inflicted by soldiers on a comrade discovered guilty of some serious breach of the unwritten law of comradeship, such as theft, etc.: formerly inflicted with a bootjack—hence the name. *To make one boot serve for either leg*, to speak with double meaning. *The boot is on the other leg*, the case is altered, responsibility is shifted. *To have one's heart in one's boots*, to be in extreme fear. *Over shoes, over boots*, reckless continuance of a course begun, in for a lamb—in for a sheep. *Like old boots*, vigorously, thorough-going. *To die in one's boots*, to be hanged.

Boot-catcher. A servant whose duty it was to remove a person's boots.

Booth. A house. *To heave a booth*, to rob a house.

Booth-burster. A loud and noisy actor, barn-stormer (q.v.).

Booting. A punishment administered with a strap.

Boot-Joe. Musketry drill.

Bootlick. A flunkey, hanger-on, doer of dirty work, toady. As verb, to toady, hang on, undertake dirty work.

Boots. 1. The servant at hotels and places of a kindred character who cleans the boots of visitors: formerly called boot-catchers (q.v.), because in the old riding and coaching days part of their duty was to divest travellers of their footgear. 2. The youngest officer in a regimental mess. 3. In humorous (or sarcastic) combination: e.g. Clumsy-boots, Lazy-boots, Sly-boots, Smooth-boots, etc.

Boots and Leathers. See Commoner Peal.

Booty. Plunder, spoils, swag (q.v.). *To play booty,* to play falsely, dishonestly; or unfairly; this with the object of not winning, a previous arrangement having been made with a confederate to share the spoils resulting from the bogus play: sometimes it takes the form of permitting the victim to win small stakes in order to encourage him to hazard larger sums which, naturally, he is not allowed to win (1575). *Booty-fellow,* a sharer in plunder, illicit-gains, etc.

Booze. 1. Drink, a draught: the older forms are bouse or bouze (q.v.), but booze in its present form appears as early as 1714. 2. A drinking bout, tipsy frolic. As verb, to drink heavily, tipple, guzzle: an old term employed in some sense of to drink, as early as 1300. *Boozed,* drunk, fuddled. *Boozy,* drunken, screwed (q.v.). *Boozing,* the act of drinking hard. *Boozer,* a drunkard, a tippler.

Boozing Cheat. A bottle.

Boozing-ken. A drinking den: Fr., *bibine*: see Lush crib (1567).

Boozington. A drunkard, Lushington (q.v.).

Borachio. A drunkard: see Lushington: properly a skin for holding wine (1599).

Borak. *To poke borak,* to pour fictitious news into credulous ears, stuff, kid.

Bord, Borde, Boorde. A shilling: see Rhino (1567).

Bordeaux. Blood: cf. Claret and Badminton. *Bordeaux hammer,* a vinous headache.

Bord You! An expression used to claim the next turn in drinking.

Bore (old slang, but now recognised). Anybody (or anything) wearisome or annoying. As verb, (1) to weary or to be wearied: the word does not appear in English literature prior to 1750; (2) push (or thrust) out of the course: amongst pugilists it signifies to drive an opponent on to the ropes of the ring by sheer weight, whilst amongst rowing men it denotes the action of a coxswain in so steering a boat as to force his opponent into the shore, or into still water, thus obtaining an unfair advantage; also analogously applied to horse-racing (1672).

Born. *All one's born days,* one's lifetime (1740). *Born weak,* said of a vessel feebly built.

Bosh. Nonsense, rubbish, stuff, rot — anything beneath contempt: Murray says from the Turkish *bosh lakerdi,* empty talk; the word became current in England from its frequent occurrence in Morier's Persian novel, *Ayesha* [1834], an extremely popular production. As verb, to humbug, spoil, mar. As intj., nonsense! Rubbish! It's all my eye!

Bosh Faker. A violin player.

Boshing. A flogging, bashing.

Boshy. Trumpery, nonsensical.

Bos-ken. A farmhouse: an old canting term.

Boskiness. The quality of being fuddled with drink (or bemused), a state of drunkenness.

Bosky. Drunk, tipsy, fuddled: see Screwed (1748).

Bosman. A farmer.

Bosom-bird. An intimate friend.

Bosom-mischief. The root of offending.

Bosom-piece. A bosom friend: especially of a woman.

Bosom-sermon. One learnt by heart.

Bosom-slave. A mistress.

Boss. 1. A master, head man, one who directs: from the Dutch *baas,* a master. 2. A short-sighted person; also one who squints: also *Bosser:* cf. Boss-eyed. 3. A miss, blunder. As adj., pleasant, first rate, chief. As verb, (1) to manage, direct, control; (2) to miss one's aim, make such a shot as a boss-eyed (q.v.) person would be expected to make. Boss-shot, a shot that fails of its mark.

Bossers. Spectacles.

Boss-eyed. Said of a person with one eye (or rather with one eye injured), a person with obliquity of vision, squinny-eyed (q.v.), swivel-eyed (q.v.).

Bostruchyzer (Oxford University). A small kind of comb for curling the whiskers (*Hotten*).

Bot, Bott, Botts. The colic, belly-ache, gripes (1787).

Botanical Excursion. Transportation: the allusion is to Botany Bay (q.v.)

Botany Bay (University). 1. At Oxford, Worcester College: on *account of its* remote situation as regards other collegiate buildings. 2. A certain portion of Trinity College, Dublin: for a similar reason. 3. Penal servitude: formerly convicts [1787-1867] were transported to Botany Bay, a convict settlement at the Antipodes. Hence to go to Botany Bay, to get a long term of imprisonment.

Botany Bay Fever. Transportation, penal servitude.

Botch. A tailor.

Bottle. *To turn out no bottle*, not to turn out well, to fail. *To pass the bottle of smoke*, to countenance a conventional tie, to cant. *To look for a needle in a bottle of hay*, to engage in a hopeless search: also, needle in a haystack. *To bottle up*, to restrain temper (or) feelings, to hold (or keep) back (1622).

Bottle-ache. Drunkenness: see Gallon distemper.

Bottle-arsed. Type thicker at one end than the other — a result of wear and tear.

Bottle-head. A fool: see Buffle.

Bottle-holder. 1. A second at a prize-fight. 2. One who gives moral support, backer, adviser: in the *Times* of 1851, Lord Palmerston was reported to consider himself the bottle-holder of oppressed states: and in *Punch* of the same year, a cartoon appeared representing that statesman as the judicious bottle-holder (1753).

Bottle-holding. Backing, supporting.

Bottle of Brandy in a Glass. A long drink, of beer.

Bottle of Spruce. Twopence, deuce (q.v.).

Bottles. Barrett's Brewery and Bottling Co. Shares.

Bottle-sucker. An able-bodied seaman, the abbreviation is A.B.S.

Bottom. 1. The posteriors: not now in polite or literary use (1794). 2. Capital, resources, stamina, grit (1662). 3. Spirit placed in a glass prior to the addition of water. *To knock the bottom out of one*, to overcome, defeat. *To stand on one's own bottom*, to act for oneself, to be independent.

Bottom Dollar. The last dollar. *To bet one's bottom dollar*, to risk all.

Bottom Facts. The exact truth about any matter. *To get to the bottom facts concerning a subject*, to arrive at an unquestionable conclusion concerning it, to get to the root of the question: also Bottom-rock.

Botty. An infant's posteriors, Fr., *tu tu*. As adj., conceited, swaggering: Fr., *faire sa merde, faire son matador*.

Bough. The gallows: see Tree (1590).

Boughs. *Up in the boughs*, in a passion (*Grose*).

Bounce. 1. Brag, swagger, boastful falsehood, exaggeration (1714). 2. Impudence, cheek, brass (q.v.). 3. A boaster, swaggerer, showy swindler, bully (1812). As verb, (1) to boast, bluster, hector, bully, blow up (1633); (2) to lie, to cheat, swindle (1762). *On the bounce*, in a state of spasmodic movement, general liveliness. *To get the grand bounce*, to be dismissed: spec. in reference to government appointments.

Bounceable. Prone to bouncing or boasting, uppish, bumptious (1830).

Bouncer. 1. A bully, hector, blusterer, one who talks swaggeringly (1748). 2. A thief who steals goods from shop counters while bargaining with the tradesman: Fr., *dégringoleur*, and (the practice itself) *dégringoler à la carre*. 3. A lie, a liar (1762). 4. Anything large of its kind, whopper, thumper, corker (1596). 5. Chucker-out (q.v.). 6. A prostitute's bully. 7. A gun that kicks when fired.

Bouncing. Vigorous, lusty, exaggerated, excessive, big (1563).

Bouncing Cheat. A bottle.

Bounder. 1. A four-wheeled cab, growler (q.v.). 2. A student whose manners are not acceptable, one whose companionship is not cared for. 3. A dog-cart. 4. A vulgar, though well-dressed man, a superior kind of 'Arry, one whose dress and personal appearance are correct, but whose manners are of a questionable character. The term is very often used in connection with bally (q.v.).

Boung. See Bung.

Boung Nipper. See Bung-nipper.

Bounty-jumper. A man who, receiving a bounty when enlisting, deserts, re-enlists, and receives a second bounty. The War of the Rebellion is responsible for this, as for many other colloquialisms; as the conflict lengthened out, men became in great request, and large bounties were offered by the North for volunteers. This bounty was found to be a direct incitement to bad faith and unfair dealing. Men would enlist, receive their bounty, join their regiment, and then decamp, to reappear in another State, to go through the same performance, in some cases many times over.

Bounty-jumping. Obtaining a bounty by enlisting and then deserting.

Bourbon. 1. In American politics a Democrat of the straitest sect; a fire-eater: applied, for the most part, to the Southern Democrats of the old school — uncompromising adherents of political tradition — behind the age, and unteachable. 2. A superior kind of whisky: originally that manufactured in Bourbon, Kentucky.

Bouse, Bowse, Booze. 1. Drink or liquor of any kind (1567). 2. A drinking bout, carouse. As verb, to drink to excess, tipple, swill: both this and the substantive seem to have been known as early as 1300, but neither came into general use until the sixteenth century, from which period both forms have become more and more colloquial: see Lush. Hence, *bouser*, a toper; *bousing*, hard drinking; and *bousy*, intoxicated or screwed. *To bouse the jib*, to tipple, drink heavily: a different word—from bouse, to haul with tackle, i.e. to make oneself tight: see Screwed.

Bousing Ken. A tavern, inn, drinking den: now applied to a low public house: see Lush crib (1567).

Bouzy. See Boozy.

Bow. *Two* (or *many*) *strings to one's bow*, an alternative, more resources than one (1562). *To draw the long bow*, to exaggerate, gas, talk up (1819). *To draw the bow up to the ear*, to do a thing with alacrity, put on full steam, exert oneself to the utmost. *The bent of one's bow*, one's intention, inclination, disposition. *To shoot in another's bow*, to undertake another's work, practise an art or profession other than one's own. *By the string rather than the bow*, in a direct fashion, by the straightest way to an end. *To bend* (or *bring*) *to one's bow*, to control, compel to one's will or inclination. *To come to one's bow*, to be complaisant, become compliant.

Bow-catcher. A kiss-curl: see Aggerawator: a corruption of beau-catcher.

Bowdlerize. To expurgate by removing words or phrases considered offensive or questionable from a book or writing: from Dr. T. Bowdler's method in editing an edition of Shakespeare, in which, to use his own words, Those . . . expressions are omitted which cannot with propriety be read aloud in a family (1836).

Bower. A prison: see Cage.

Bowery Boy, Bowery Girl. The 'Arry and 'Arriet of New York of some years ago: the Bowery was the farm of Governor Stuyvesant.

Bowlas. Round tarts made of sugar, apple, and bread (*Mayhew*).

Bowled. Croppled (q.v.).

Bowler. See Boler.

Bowles. Shoes: see Trotter-cases.

Bowl Out. To overcome, get the better of, defeat (1812).

Bowl-the-hoop, subs. (rhyming slang). Soup.

Bowman. *All's Bowman*, All's well!

Bowse. See Booze.

Bowsing Ken. See Bousing ken.

Bowsprit. The nose. *To have one's bowsprit in parenthesis*, to have it pulled: cf. To have one's head in Coventry.

Bow-window. A big belly, corporation (q.v.). *Bow-windowed*, big-bellied (1840).

Bow-wow. 1. A childish name for a dog (1800). 2. A Bostonian: in contempt. 3. A cavalier, lover, spec. a petticoat-dangler: cf. Tame-cat.

Bow-wow Mutton. Dog's flesh.

Bow-wow-word. A term applied sarcastically by Max Müller to words claimed as imitations of natural sounds.

Bowyer. One who draws a long bow, a dealer in the marvellous, a teller of improbable stories, a liar.

Box. A prison cell. As verb (Westminster School), to take possession of, bag. *To be in a box*, to be cornered, in a fix, stuck (or hung) up. *To be in the wrong box*, to be out of one's element, in a false position, mistaken (1555). *On the box*, a man when on strike and in receipt of strike pay is said to be on the box. *To box*

Harry (1) to take dinner and tea together; (2) to dine out, i.e. to do without a meal at all. *To box the compass*, to repeat in succession, or irregularly, the thirty-two points of the compass; beginners, on accomplishing this feat, are said to be able to box the compass (1731).

Box Hat. A silk hat: see Cady.

Box-irons. Shoes: see Trotter-cases (1789).

Box of Dominoes. The mouth. [From box + dominoes (q.v.), a slang term for the teeth.] For synonyms, see Potato-trap.

Boy. 1. Champagne, fiz, Cham (q.v.): Fr., *champ.* [A story, *ben trovato*, is told by the *Sporting Times* of June 30, 1882, as regards the origin of the phrase:—At a shooting party in Norfolk once, a youth was told off to supply the company with champagne. The day being hot and the sportsmen thirsty, cries of Boy! Boy! Boy! were heard all day long. This tickling the fancy of the royal and noble party, the term boy became applied to champagne.] 2. A hump on a man's back: it is common to speak of a humpbacked man as two persons—him and his boy. 3. (Anglo-Indian and colonial). A servant of whatever age. *Old boy* (1) a familiar term of address: spec. a father, the guv'nor, the boss; (2) The devil. *Yellow boy*, a guinea; also, one pound sterling: see Rhino. *Angry* (or *roaring boys*), a set of young bucks, bloods, or blades (q.v.), of noisy manners and fire-eating tastes: Nares says, like the Mohawks (q.v.) described by the *Spectator*, they delighted to commit outrages and get into quarrels; early mention is made of such characters; Wilson, in his *Life of James I.* (1653), gives an account of their origin:—The king minding his sports, many riotous demeanours crept into the kingdom; divers sects of vicious persons, going under the title of roaring boys, bravadoes, roysterers, etc., commit many insolencies; the streets swarm, night and day, with bloody quarrels, private duels fomented, etc. (1599). *Boys of the holy ground*, formerly [1800-25] bands of roughs infesting a well-known region in St. Giles: see Holy-land.

Boycott. To combine in refusing to hold relations of any kind, social or commercial, public or private, with a person, on account of political or other differences, so as to punish or coerce him. The word arose in the autumn of 1880—Capt. Boycott, an Irish landlord, was the original victim—to describe the action instituted by the Irish Land League toward those who incurred its hostility. It was speedily adopted into every European language (*O.E.D.*)

Brace. To get credit by swagger. *To brace it through*, to succeed by dint of sheer impudence.

Bracelets. Handcuffs; fetters for the wrist: Fr., *alliances* (properly wedding rings), also *tartouve* and *lacets*: see Darbies (1661).

Brace of Shakes. A moment, jiffy, twinkling of an eye, etc.: see Shakes.

Brace Up. 1. To pawn stolen goods to their utmost value. 2. To take a drink.

Bracket-faced. Ugly, hard-featured (*Grose*).

Bracket-mug. An ugly face.

Brads. Generic for money: see Rhino (1812). *To tip the brads*, to pay, shell out.

Brag. A usurer, Jew.

Braggadocia. Three months' imprisonment as a reputed thief.

Brain. Cuteness, cleverness, nous (q.v.). Hence *brainy*, smart, clever, up-to-date. Phrases: *To beat* (*break*, *busy*, *cudgel*, *drag*, or *puzzle*) *one's brains*, to exert oneself to thought or contrivance. *To crack one's brains*, to become crazy. *On the brain*, crazy about (a matter). *To turn one's brain*, to bewilder, flummox. *A dry brain*, silly, stupid, barren brain. *A hot brain* an inventive fancy. *Boiled brains*, a hot-headed person. *To bear a brain*, to be cautious. *To suck* (or *pick*) *a person's brains*, to get and appropriate information. Of the *same brain*, identical in conception or doing.

Brain-pan (or **Box.**) 1. The skull, or skull-cap: also *Brain-canister*; the Scotch equivalent is *Harn pan* 2. The head (1520).

Brain-trick. A cunning device.

Brain-worm. A wriggling disputant (1645).

Brain-brat. A creature of the fancy (1630),

Brain-crack. A craze, crotchet, bee (1851).

Brain-worm. A wriggling disputant (1645).

Bramble. A lawyer; a tangle of the law.

Bramble-gelder. An agriculturist: a Suffolk term.

Bran. A loaf.

Branded Ticket. A discharge given to an infamous man, on which his character is given, and the reason he is turned out of the service (*Smyth*).

Brandy. *Brandy is Latin for goose* (or for *fish*), this punning vulgarism appears first in Swift's *Polite Conversation*; the pun is on the word answer. *Anser* is the Latin for goose, which brandy follows as surely and quickly as an answer follows a question.

Brandy Face. A tippler, drunkard: spec. one whose favourite drink is brandy: see Lushington (1687).

Brandy-faced. Red-faced, bloated.

Brandy Pawnee. Brandy and water (1816).

Brandy Smash. An American drink of brandy and crushed ice.

Bran-mash. Bread sopped in coffee or tea.

Brass. 1. Impudence, effrontery, unblushing hardness, shamelessness, etc. (1594). 2. Generic for money: see Rhino (1526).

Brass-basin. A barber, surgeon-barber (1599).

Brass-face. An impudent person.

Brass-bound and Copper Fastened. Said of a lad dressed in a midshipman's uniform (*W. Clark Russell*).

Brass-bounder. A midshipman.

Brasser (Christ's Hospital). A bully.

Brass Farthing (or Farde). The lowest limit of value (1642).

Brass Knocker. Broken victuals, the remains of a meal: specially applied by beggars to the scraps often bestowed upon them in place of money.

Brass-plate Merchant. A dealer who merely procures orders for coal, gets some merchant who buys in the market to execute them in his name, and manages to make a living by the profits of these transactions (*Mayhew*).

Brassy. Impudent, impertinent, shameless (1570).

Brat. 1. A child: almost invariably in contempt (1505). 2. A rag, shabby clothes, or other articles that are mere rags.

Brattery. A nursery (1788).

Bratful. An apronful.

Brazen-faced. Shameless, impudent, unblushing, with a face as of brass, or as if rubbed with a brass candlestick (1571).

Bread. Employment. *Out of bread*, out of work. Phrases: *To know on which side one's bread is buttered*, to recognise one's interests. *To take the bread out of one's mouth*, to deprive of the means of livelihood. *Bread buttered on both sides*, the height of good fortune, the best of luck. *No bread and butter of mine*, no concern (or business) of mine (1764).

Bread-artist. One working merely to gain a living: cf. Potboiler.

Bread and Butter Warehouse, phr. (old). Ranelagh Gardens.

Bread-and-cheese. Plain living, needful food.

Bread and Meat. The commissariat.

Bread Bags. A nickname given in the army and navy to any one connected with the victualling department, as a purser or purveyor in the commissariat: at one time called muckers: Fr., *riz-pain-sel*.

Bread-barge. The distributing basket or tray containing the rations of biscuits.

Bread-basket. The stomach. English synonyms: bread-room, dumpling-depot, victualling-office, porridge-bowl (1735).

Bread-picker (Winchester College). The four senior præfects used to appoint juniors to this office, which was nominal, but which carried with it exemption from fagging at meal times. No notion book states in what the office consisted, but it is supposed that it relates to times when juniors had to secure the bread, etc., served out for their masters.

Bread-room. The stomach, bread-basket (1760) (q.v.).

Bread-room Jack. A purser's servant.

Break. 1. A collection (of money) usually got up by a prisoner's friends, either to defray the expenses of his defence, or as a lift when leaving prison. 2. Formerly and more generally applied to a pause in street performances to enable the hat to be passed round: cf. Lead. *To break one's back*, to become bankrupt (1601). *To break one's egg*:

see Crack one's egg. *To break out all over* (or *in a fresh spot*), expressions in common use—in the one case conveying an idea of completeness; and, in the other, of commencing some new undertaking, or assuming a different position whether in an argument or action. *To break shins*, to borrow money. *To break the balls*, to commence playing. *To break the molasses jug*, to come to grief, to make a mistake. *To break the neck* or *back of anything*, to accomplish the major portion of a task, be near the end of an undertaking, be past the middle of same. *To break a straw with*, to fall out with. *To break a lance with*, to enter into competition with. *To break Priscian's head*, to violate the laws of grammar. *To break the neck of a thing* (or *matter*), to get through the serious part of it. *To break the ice*, to commence, prepare the way. *To break no squares*, to do no harm.

Break-down. 1. A measure of liquor. 2. A noisy dance, a convivial gathering: the term was, at first, specially applied to a negro dance, but is now in general use in England in a humorous sense. *To break down*, to dance riotously, be boisterous, spreeish.

Break-o'-day Drum. A drinking saloon which keeps its doors open all night.

Breaky-leg. 1. Intoxicating drink: see Drinks. 2. A shilling.

Breast Fleet. Roman Catholics; from their practice of crossing themselves on the breast as an act of devotion (*Grose*).

Breath. *Change your breath*, an injunction to adopt a different manner or bearing. An offensive, slang expression which, originating in California, quickly ran its course through the Union.

Breath-bubble. An empty thing, trifle (1835).

Breath-seller. 1. A perfumer (1601). 2. A paid speaker.

Breech. To flog: formerly in literary use, but now fallen into desuetude (1557).

Breeched. Well off, with plenty of money; *well breeched*, in good circumstances: cf. Ballasted. Fr., *deculotté* (= bankrupt, i.e. unbreeched).

Breeches. Ironically applied to the Commonwealth coinage; suggested by the arrangement of two shields on the reverse side of the coin. *To wear the breeches*, to usurp a husband's prerogative, be master (1450): cf. the grey mare is the better horse of the two.

Breeching. A flogging (q.v.), formerly in general use (1520).

Breef. See Brief.

Breeze. A row, quarrel, disturbance, coolness (*Grose*).

Brekker. Breakfast.

Brevet Hell. A battle: the term originated during the American Civil War.

Brevet-wife. A woman who takes a man's name, and enjoys all the privileges of a wife.

Brew (Marlborough School). To make afternoon tea.

Brewer's Horse. A drunkard: see Lushington.

Brian o' Linn. Gin: see Drinks.

Briar, Brier. A brier-wood pipe.

Brick. A good fellow; one whose staunchness and loyalty commend him to his fellows: said to be of University origin, the simile being drawn from the classics (1835). As verb, to punish a man by bringing the knees close up to the chin, and lashing the arms tightly to the knees — a species of trussing. *Like a brick* (*like bricks*, or *like a thousand of bricks*), with energy, alacrity, thoroughly, vehemently and with much display. *Brick in the hat*, top-heavy, inability to preserve a steady gait: of drunken men.

Brick-duster. See Brick-fielder.

Brickdusts. The Fifty-third Regiment of Foot, now The King's (Shropshire Light Infantry), from its facings.

Brickfielder (or Brickduster). In Sydney the name given to a dust or sand storm brought by southerly winds from sand hills locally known as the Brickfields—hence the name: also the Buster or Southerly Burster.

Bricklayer. A clergyman.

Bricklayer's Clerk. A lubberly sailor.

Bricks (Wellington College). A sort of pudding.

Brick Wall. *To run one's head against a brick wall*, to pursue a course obstinately to certain disaster, ruin, or death.

Bridge. A cheating trick at cards, by which any particular card is cut by previously curving it by the pressure of the hand: Fr., *le pont sec.* *To throw a person over the bridge*, to deceive him by betraying the confidence he has reposed in you. *Beside the bridge*, off the track, astray. *A gold* (or *silver*) *bridge*, an easy way of escape.

Bridle-cull. A highwayman (1754).

Bridport (or Brydport) Dagger. The hangman's rope. *To be stabbed with a Bridport dagger*, to be hanged (1662).

Brief. 1. A ticket of any kind—railway pass, pawnbroker's duplicate, raffle ticket. 2. A pocket book. Hence *briefless*, ticketless.

Briefs (or Breefs). Prepared cards (1529). [Take a pack of cards and open them, then take out all the honours . . . and cut a little from the edges of the rest all alike, so as to make the honours broader than the rest, so that when your adversary cuts to you, you are certain of an honour. When you cut to your adversary cut at the ends, and then it is a chance if you cut him an honour, because the cards at the ends are all of a length. Thus you may make breefs end-ways as well as side-ways] (*Hotten*).

Brief-snatcher. A pocket-book thief (q.v.).

Brier (or Briar). In pl. difficulty, trouble, vexation. *In the briars*, in trouble (1509).

Brigh. A pocket, cly, skyrocket.

Bright. *Bright in the eye*, tipsy: see Screwed.

Brighton Tipper. A particular brew of ale.

Brim. A prostitute: i.e. Brimstone (q.v.) (1730). 2. An angry, violent woman, or a termagant, without reference to moral character.

Brimstone. 1. A violent tempered woman, virago, spitfire (1712). 2. A prostitute.

Briney (or Briny). The sea (1856). English synonyms, herring pond, big pond, big drink, the puddle, Davy's locker.

Bring. *To bring down the house*, to elicit loud applause; and, figuratively, to be successful (1754).

Brisket-beater. A Roman Catholic: cf. Breast-fleet, and Craw-thumper (*Grose*).

Bristle. *To set up one's bristles*, to show temper.

Bristle Dice or Bristles, subs. A method of cogging dice by inserting bristles into them, and thus influencing the position of the cubes when thrown (1562).

Bristol Milk. Sherry: formerly a large import of the city of Bristol: see Drinks (1644).

Broach. *To broach claret*, to draw blood.

Broad. Knowing, cute, smart: cf. Wide. Phrases: *In the broad or the long*, in one way or another. *It's as broad as it's long*, there's no difference, there's not a pin to choose between them.

Broad and Shallow. An epithet applied to the Broad Church party, in contradistinction to the High and Low Churches: see High and dry.

Broadbottoms. A nickname of two Coalition Governments, one in the last century [1741], and the other in 1807.

Broadbrim. A Quaker: the origin of this expression is to be found in the hat once peculiar to the Society of Friends (1712).

Broad-cooper. A person employed by brewers to negotiate with publicans.

Broad Cove. A card-sharper: Fr., *bremeur* (1821).

Broad-faking. Playing at cards: spec. work of the three card and kindred descriptions.

Broad-fencer. A k'rect card vendor.

Broads. Playing cards (1789).

Broadsman. A card-sharper.

Broady. 1. Cloth: a corruption of broadcloth (1851). 2. Anything worth stealing.

Broady Worker. A man who goes round selling shoddy stuff under the pretence that it is excellent material, which has been got on the cross, i.e. stolen.

Brock (Winchester College). To bully, tease, badger.

Brockster (Winchester College). A bully.

Brogues (Christ's Hospital). Breeches: in reality an obsolete old English term which has survived among the Blues.

Broiled (or Boiled) Crow. *To eat boiled crow*, a newspaper editor, who is obliged by his party, or other outside influences, to advocate principles different from those which he supported a short time before, is said to eat boiled crow.

Broke. *Dead broke* (or *stone broke*), ruined, decayed, hard up—of health or pecuniary circumstances: Fr., *pas un radis.*

Broken Feather in One's Wing. A blot on one's character.

Broken-kneed (or legged). Seduced.

Brolly. An umbrella: first used at Winchester and subsequently adopted at both Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

Broncho. Unruly, wild, savage: from the name of the native horse of California, a somewhat tricky and uncertain quadruped; familiarly applied to horses that buck and show other signs of vice: the Spanish signification of the word is rough and crabbed little beast, and in truth he deserves this name.

Broncho-buster. A breaker-in of bronchos, a flash-rider.

Bronze John. A Texas name for yellow fever; commonly called Yellow Jack (q.v.).

Broom, subs. (old). A warrant (1815). As verb, to run away: see Bunk.

Broomstick. A sort of rough cricket bat, very narrow in the blade: all of one piece of wood. *To jump the broomstick* (*hop the broom, jump the besom*), to go through a *quasi* marriage ceremony by jumping over a broomstick (1774).

Broomsticks. Worthless bail, straw-bail (1812).

Brosier (or **Brozier**) (Eton College). A boy when he had spent all his pocket money: brozier is Cheshire for bankrupt. *Broziered,* cleaned out, done up, ruined, bankrupt (1796). *Brozier-my-dame* (Eton College), eating one out of house and home: when a dame (q.v.) keeps an unusually bad table, the boys agree together on a day to eat, pocket, or waste everything eatable in the house. The censure is well understood, and the hint is generally effective (1850).

Broth. Breath. *To make white broth of,* to boil to death. *A broth of a boy,* a downright good fellow.

Brother-blade. A soldier: see Mudcrusher (*Grose*).

Brother Chip. One of the same calling or trade: formerly a fellow-carpenter (1820).

Brother of the Brush. An artist, a house-painter (1687).

Brother of the Bung. A brewer; one of the same trade.

Brother of the Buskin. A player, actor—one of the same profession.

Brother of the Coif. A serjeant-at-law: the coif was a close-fitting cap worn by the serjeants-at-law (*Grose*).

Brother of the Quill. An author (1754).

Brother of the String. A fiddler.

Brother of the Whip. A coachman (1756).

Brother-smut. A term of familiarity: e.g. Ditto, brother or sister smut, *tu quoque.*

Broughtonian. A bruiser, boxer, pugilist: from Broughton, once the best boxer of his day.

Brown. 1. A halfpenny: see Rhino (1812). 2. Porter: an abbreviation of Brown Stout. As verb, (1) to do brown, to get the better of; (2) to understand, comprehend. *To do brown,* to do well, take in, deceive, exceed bounds (1600).

Brown Bess. 1. Yes. 2. The old regulation musket. 3. A prostitute (1631). *To hug brown Bess,* to serve as a private soldier.

Brown George. 1. A wig, of the colour of over-baked ginger-bread: modish during the latter half of the last century. 2. A jug: generally of brown earthenware: cf. Black-jack. 3. A coarse brown loaf, or hard biscuit (1653).

Brownie. The polar bear.

Brown Janet. A knapsack.

Brown Joe. No: cf. Brown Bess, Yes.

Brown-paperman. A gambler in pence.

Brown-paper warrant. A warrant given by a captain: this he can cancel (*Smyth*).

Brown Stone. Beer: see Drinks.

Brown-study. Mental abstraction, musing, thoughtful absentmindedness, idle reverie.

Brown Talk. Conversation of an exceedingly proper character: cf. Blue

Browse. To idle, loll, take things easy. *A browse morning,* one in which there is little work.

Bruise. To fight, box—generally with the idea of mauling. *To bruise along,* to pound along.

Bruiser. 1. A prize-fighter, boxer (1744). 2. A prostitute's bully. 3. One fond of fighting. 4. Generic for a rowdy or bully: sometimes, however, limited in its application to a particular band of ruffians, as once in Baltimore.

Bruising. Prize-fighting, boxing (1757).

Brum. 1. A counterfeit coin: contracted form of Brummagem (q.v.), spec. counterfeit groats (about 1691). 2. Anything counterfeit, not genuine. 3. Copper money struck by Boulton and Watt at their works at Soho, Birmingham (1787). 4. An inhabitant of Birmingham. As adj. (Winchester College), mean, poor, stingy: the superlative is dead brum.

Brumby. A wild horse: the Antipodean counterpart of the American broncho.

Brummagem. 1. Birmingham. 2. Base money of various denominations—especially groats in 17th century—hence anything spurious or unreal (1691). As adj., counterfeit, unreal, sham, showy, pretentious (1637).

Brummagem Buttons. Counterfeit coin (1836).

Brummish. Doubtful, counterfeit (1805).

Brums. London and North Western Stock: formerly the London and Birmingham Railway.

Brush. 1. See Brother of the Brush. 2. A hasty departure (1750). 3. A person who decamps hastily, or who evades his creditors (1748). As verb, (1) to flog, thrash: e.g. to brush one's jacket: cf. Dust; (2) to run away, decamp: also *to brush off* (1696).

Brusher. 1. A full glass. 2. One that gets or steals away privately (*Dyche*). 3. A schoolmaster. As verb, to humbug by flattery. *To brush up a flat*, to use mealy-mouthed words, lay it on thick, soft soap (q.v.).

Brute. A man who has not yet matriculated: the play is evident—A man, in college phrase, is a collegian; and as matriculation is the sign and seal of acceptance, a scholar before that ceremony is not a man, only a biped brute.

Brydport Dagger. See Bridport dagger.

B. T. I. An abbreviation of A big thing on ice: cf. P.D.Q., O.K., N.G., and Q.K.

Bub. 1. Strong drink of any kind: usually applied to malt liquor. *To take bub and grub*, to eat and drink (1671). 2. A woman's breast: generally in plural—bubbies (q.v.). 3. A brother. 4. A term of affection applied to a little boy: also a familiar address. 5. An abbreviated form of bubble (q.v.). As verb, (1) to drink (1671); (2) to bribe, cheat: cf. Bubble (1719).

Bubber. 1. A hard drinker, confirmed tippler: see Lushington: Fr., *bibassier* (1653). 2. A drinking bowl (1696). 3. A public-house thief (1785). 4. An old woman with large pendulous breasts.

Bubbies. A woman's breasts (1686).

Bubbing. Drinking, tippling (1678).

Bubble. A dupe, gull, caravan (q.v.); and rook (q.v.) (1598). As verb, to cheat, humbug, delude as with bubbles, to overreach (1664).

Bubbleable. That can be duped, gullible (1669).

Bubble and Squeak. Cold meat fried up with potatoes and greens (*Grose*).

Bubble-buff. A bailiff.

Bubble Company. A swindling association, enterprise, or project: the South Sea Bubble will occur to mind (1754).

Bubbled. Gulled, deceived, befooled (1683).

Bubbling-squeak. Hot soup.

Bubbly Jock. 1. A turkey cock, gobbler (*Grose*). 2. A stupid boaster. 3. A pert, conceited, pragmatical fellow; a prig; a cad.

Bubby. See Bub and Bubbies.

Bucco. A dandy, buck (q.v.).

Buck. 1. In the first instance a man of spirit or gaiety of conduct; later a fop, a dandy (1725). 2. An unlicensed cabdriver: also a sham fare (1851). 3. A sixpence: thought to be a corruption of fyebuck (q.v.): rarely used by itself, but denotes the sixpence attached to shillings in reference to cost, as, three and a buck, three shillings and sixpence: see Rhino. 4. A large marble. 5. A term used in poker. As adj., at Princeton College anything which is of an intensive degree, good, excellent, pleasant or agreeable, is called buck. As verb, (1) to oppose, run counter to; (2) Applied to horses this term describes the action of plunging forward and throwing the head to the ground in an effort to unseat the rider. (3) To cook (q.v.): of accounts. (4) To play against the bank, usually, to buck the tiger. (5) To put forth one's whole energy. *To run a buck*, to poll a bad vote at an election (*Grose*). *To buck* (or *fight*) *the tiger*, to gamble. *To buck down* (Winchester College), to be sorry, unhappy. *To be bucked*, to be tired. *To buck up* (Winchester College), to be glad, pleased: the usual expression is Oh, buck up, a phrase which at Westminster School would have a very different meaning, namely exert yourself; at Uppingham *to be bucked* (q.v.) is to be tired.

Buck Bait. Bail given by a confederate.

Buckeen. 1. A bully (*Grose*). 2. A younger son of the poorer aristocracy.

Bucket. An anonymous letter. As verb, (1) to ride hard, not to spare one's beast; (2) to cheat, ruin, deceive (1812); (3) to take the water unfairly —with a scoop at the beginning of the stroke instead of a steady even pull throughout. *To give the bucket*, to dismiss from one's employment, send a person about his business: see Bag and Sack. *To kick the bucket*, to die: the bucket here is thought to refer to a Norfolk term for a pulley; when pigs are killed they are hung by their hind legs on a bucket (*Grose*).

Bucket-afloat. A coat.

Bucket Shop. 1. A stock gambling den carried on in opposition to regular exchange business, and usually of a more than doubtful character. 2. A low groggery, lottery office, gambling den, etc.

Buckeye. A native of Ohio. *Buck-eye State*, Ohio.

Buck Face. A cuckold.

Buck Fitch. An old roué.

Buckhara. A cattle-driver, cowboy.

Buckhorse. A smart blow, box on the ear: from the name of a celebrated bruiser of that name; Buckhorse was a man who either possessed or professed insensibility to pain, and who would for a small sum allow anyone to strike him with the utmost force on the side of the face; his real name was John Smith, and he fought in public 1732-46.

Buckish. Foppish, dandyish (1782).

Buck-jump. A jump made in buck (q.v.) fashion.

Buckle. 1. To marry (1693). 2. *To buckle to*, to undertake, grapple with, slip in, work vigorously (1557). *To buckle down*, to settle down, become reconciled to, knuckle down (q.v.).

Buckle-beggar. A Fleet parson; also one who celebrated irregular marriages, a hedge priest, one who undertook similar offices for gipsies and tramps (1700).

Buckle-bosom. A catchpoll, constable.

Buckled. Arrested, scragged.

Buckler. A collar.

Bucklers. Fetters. See Darbies.

Buckram. *Men in buckram*, non-existent persons: in allusion to Falstaff's four men in buckram.

Bucksome (Winchester College). Happy, in a state of buck-uppishness: see Buck-up.

Bud. An endearment: of children or young persons.

Budge. 1. A pick-pocket (1671). 2. An accomplice who gains access to a building during the day for the purpose of being locked in, so that he can, when night comes, admit his fellow thieves: also *sneaking-budge* (1752). 3. Drink, liquor: see Drinks. *Budgy*, drunk. *Budging-ken*, a public house. *Cove of the budging-ken*, a publican. *Budger*, a drunkard (1821). As verb, to move, to make tracks.

Budge-a-beake. To run away (presumably from justice): cf. to bilk the blues (q.v.) (1610).

Budger. A drunkard: see Lushington.

Budget. *To open one's budget*, to speak one's mind.

Budging-ken. A public house: see Lush-crib (1821).

Budgy. Drunk, intoxicated: see Screwed.

Bud of Promise. A young unmarried woman: see Rosebud and Bud.

Buenos Ayres. The Royal Crescent at Margate at the extreme end of the town used to be so called: the houses remained unfinished for a very considerable time (*H. J. Byron*).

Bufe. A dog: from the sound of its bark (1567).

Bufe-nabber (or napper). A dog thief (q.v.) (*Grose*).

Buff. 1. The bare skin (1654). 2. A man, fellow: also Buffer (q.v.) (1708). 3. Foolish talk (1721). *To buff it*, (1) to swear to, adhere to a statement hard and fast, stand firm: also *to buff it home* (1812); (2) to strip, bare oneself to the buff or skin (1581). *In buff*, naked, in a state of nudity (1602). *To stand buff*, to stand the brunt, pay the piper, endure without flinching (1680). *To say neither buff nor baff* (*not to say buff to a wolf's shadow*, or *to know neither buff nor stye*), to say neither one thing nor another, to know nothing at all.

Buffard. A foolish fellow: cf. Buffle.

Buff-coat. A soldier, one who wears a buff coat (1670).

Buffer. 1. A dog: this term in varying forms from 1567 down to the present time—Harman gives it as *bufe* (1567) and *bufa* (1573); Rowlands as *buffa* (1610); Head as *bugher* (1673); whilst in *The Memorials of John Hall* it first appears as *buffer*. 2. A man, fellow—sometimes with a slightly contemptuous meaning; generally speaking a familiar mode of address, as in Old Buffer, although even this form may be used disparagingly (1749). 3. A boxer, one of the fancy (1819). 4. A rogue that kills good sound horses only for their skins (*B. E.*). 5. One who took a false oath for a consideration. 6. A pistol (1824). 7. A smuggler, rogue, cheat. 8. A boatswain's mate, one of whose duties it is—or was—to administer the Cat. 9. A stammerer (1382).

Buff Howards. The Third Regiment of Foot, now the East Kent Regiment; also The Buffs: from its facings and Colonel from 1737 to 1749; also the Nut-crackers (q.v.); and the Resurrectionists (q.v.), from its reappearing at the Battle of Albuera after being dispersed by the Polish Lancers; also the Old Buffs, from its facings, and to distinguish it from the 31st, the Young Buffs; but the most ancient Old Buffs were the Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiments raised in 1664, and incorporated into the 2nd or Coldstream Guards in 1689.

Buffle. A fool, a stupid person: Murray quotes it as occurring in 1655, but the term was in use in 1580.

Buffle-head. An ignoramus, stupid, obtuse fellow (1659).

Buffleheaded. Stupid, idiotic, foolish.

Buffo. A comic actor, singer in comic opera (or burlesque) (1764).

Buffs (The). The Third Regiment of Foot in the British army: see Buff Howards.

Buffy. Intoxicated: see Screwed.

Bug. 1. A breast-pin. 2. An Englishman (old Irish): Grose says, because bugs were introduced into Ireland by Englishmen!! 3. In the United States bug is not confined, as in England, to the domestic pest, but is applied to all insects of the Coleoptera order, which includes what in this country are generally called beetles. 4. A person of assumed importance (1771); *big bug* (q.v.), a person of wealth or distinction; thence *cattle-bug*, a wealthy stock-raiser; *gold-bug*, a monied man. *Fire-bug*, an incendiary. *That beats the bugs*, a high mead of praise, that beats cock-fighting. As verb, (1) among journeymen hatters, to exchange dear materials for others of less value: Hats were composed of the furs and wools of diverse animals, among which is a small portion of bever's fur—bugging is stealing the bever, and substituting in lieu thereof an equal weight of some cheaper ingredient (*Grose*). (2) to bribe: bailiffs accepting money to delay service were said to bug the writ; (3) to give, hand over, deliver (1812).

Bugaboo. 1. A sheriff's officer (*Grose*). 2. A tally-man. 3. A weekly creditor.

Bugaroch. Pretty, comely, handsome (*Grose*).

Bug-blinding. Whitewashing.

Bugger. 1. A thief (q.v.), one who steals breast-pins from drunken men. 2. A man, a fellow: a coarse term of abuse with little reference to the legal meaning: the French has an exact equivalent: equivalent to bitch (q.v.), as applied to women (1719).

Buggy. A leather bottle.

Bugher. See Buffer.

Bug-hunter. 1. A thief who plunders drunken men. 2. An upholsterer (*Lexicon Balatronicum*).

Bug-juice. 1. Ginger ale. 2. The Schlechter whisky of the Pennsylvania Dutch—a very inferior spirit: also *bug-poison*.

Bugle. *To bugle it.* To abstain from going into class until the last moment, i.e. until the bugle sounds.

Bug Walk. A bed. English synonyms: Bedfordshire, Sheet Alley, Blanket Fair, Land of Nod, doss, rip, Cloth Market.

Bug-word. A word to cause terror, swaggering (or threatening) language; i.e. Bugbear-word (1562).

Build. Properly, to build is to construct, says Murray, for a dwelling and by extension of meaning . . . to construct by fitting together of separate parts; chiefly with reference to structures of considerable size . . . (not, e.g., a watch or a piano). Therefore, when build is applied to the make or style of dress, it is pure slang—It's a tidy build, who made it? A tailor is sometimes called a trousers builder. In the United States, as Fennimore Cooper puts it, everything is built. The priest builds up a flock, the speculator a fortune, the lawyer a reputation, the landlord a town, and the tailor, as in England, builds up a suit of clothes; a fire is built instead of made, and the expression is even extended to individuals, to be built being used with the meaning of formed. I was not built that way; and hence in a still more idiomatic sense to express unwillingness to adopt a specified course or carry out any inconvenient plan. *To build a chapel*, to steer badly, and so cause a ship to veer round. *Not built that way*, not to one's taste, in one's line—a general expression of disapproval or dissent, whether said of persons or things.

Bulgarian Atrocities. Varna and Rustchuk Ry. 3 per cent. obligations.

Bulge. The legitimate meaning is extended in many odd ways. Bags (q.v.) bulge, but do not get baggy; and in a similar fashion when a man is all attention his eyes are said to bulge. *To go* (or *be*) *on a bulge*, to drink to excess: see Screwed. *To get the bulge on one*, to obtain an advantage over, to get the drop on one (1869).

Bulger. Large buster (q.v.).

Bulk. An assistant to a File or Pickpocket, who jostles a person up against the wall, while the other picks his pocket (*B. E.*).

Bulker. 1. A prostitute of a low type, one who slept on a bulk, a kind of sill projecting from a window (1691). 2. A thief (q.v.): see Bulk (1669).

Bulky. A police constable: said to be a northern term (1821). As adj. (Winchester College); rich, generous (or both): the opposite of brum (q.v.).

Bull. 1. Formerly a blunder or mistake; now generally understood as an inconsistent statement, a ludicrous contradiction, often partaking largely of the nature of a pun: the term was current long before the form Irish bull is met with (1642). 2. A crown, five-shilling piece: formerly bull's-eye (q.v.) (1812). 3. Originally a speculative purchase for a rise; i.e. a man would agree to buy stock at a future day at a stated price with no intention of taking it up, but trusting to the market advancing in value to make the transaction profitable: bull is the reverse of bear (q.v.): the term is now more frequently applied to persons, i.e. to one who tries to enhance the value of stocks by speculative purchases or otherwise; also used as a verb and adjective (1671): on the French Bourse a bull is *haussier*, in Berlin he is known as *liebhaler*; and in Vienna *contremine*. 4. See Bull the cask (or barrel). 5. A teapot with the leaves left in for a second brew. 6. Prison rations of meat, an allusion to its toughness; also generally used for meat without any reference to its being either tough or tender: Fr., *bidoche*. 7. A locomotive: sometimes *bullgine*. 8. (Winchester College). Cold beef: introduced at breakfast about 1873. As verb, at Dartmouth College, to recite badly, make a poor recitation. *Stale bull*, stock held over for a long period with profit. *To bull the cask* (or *barrel*), to pour water into a rum cask when empty, with a view to keeping the wood moist and preventing leakage; the water after some time is very intoxicating, and the authorities, not looking with much favour upon wholesale brewing of grog in this way, sometimes use salt water as a deterrant, though even this salt water bull, as it is called, when again poured out, has often proved too attractive for seamen to resist: again it is common to talk in the same way of Bulling a teapot, coffee-pot, etc.; that is, after the first brew has been exhausted, by adding fresh water, and boiling over again, to make a second brew from the old materials. *He may bear a bull that hath borne a calf*, after little, big things are possible. *A bull in a china shop*, a simile of reckless destruction. *To take the bull by the horns*, to meet a difficulty with resolution and courage. *To show the bull horn*, to make a show of resistance.

Bullace. A black eye (1659).

Bull-and-cow. A row.

Bull-back. Pickaback (q.v.) (1600).

Bull-bait. To bully, hector, badger.

Bull-beef. Hard, stringy meat; hence, As ugly as bull-beef; As big as bull-beef; Go and sell yourself for bull-beef (1579). *To bluster like bull-beef*, to tear round like mad.

Bull-calf (or dog). A great hulkey or clumsy fellow (*Grose*).

Bull-chin. A fat, chubby child (*Grose*).

Bull-dance. A dance in which only men take part: cf. Stag-dance, Gander-party, Hen-party, etc.

Bull-dog. 1. A sheriff's officer, bailiff (1698). 2. A pistol; in the naval service a main-deck gun (1700). 3. A sugar-loaf. 4. A proctor's assistant or marshal (1823). 5. A member of Trinity College, Cambridge: obsolete.

Bull-dog Blazer. A revolver.

Bull-dose. A severe castigation or flogging. As verb, to thrash, intimidate, bully; a term of Southern political origin, originally referring to an association of negroes formed to insure, by violent and unlawful means, the success of an election: now in general use, to signify the adoption and use of coercive measures (1876).

Bull-doser. 1. A bully, braggart, swaggerer. 2. A pistol: spec. one carrying a bullet heavy enough to destroy human life with certainty.

Bullet. *To give the bullet*, to discharge an employé, give the bag (or sack) (1841). *Full bullet*, full size. *Every bullet has its billet* (or lighting-place): see Billet. *Bullet in mouth*, ready for action.

Bullet-head. 1. A person with a round head like a bullet. 2. An obstinate fellow, pig-headed fool, dull silly fellow (*B. E.*).

Bullfinch. 1. A stupid fellow. 2. A high thick hedge; one difficult to jump or rush through: most authorities agree that this term is a corruption of bull-fence, i.e. a fence capable of preventing cattle from straying. As verb, to leap a horse through such a hedge (1820).

Bull-flesh. Brag, swagger (1832).

Bull-head. 1. Hair curled and frizzled, worn over the forehead (1672). 2. A fool, blockhead. *Bull-headed*, pig-headedly impetuous, blockheaded.

Bull-jine. A locomotive.

Bull-nurse. A male attendant on the sick.

Bullock. 1. A cheat. 2. A countryman or bushman: cf. Bullock-puncher. As verb, to bully, bounce over, intimidate (1716).

Bullock's Heart. See Token.

Bullock's-horn. To pawn.

Bull Party. A party of men.

Bull-puncher. A cow-puncher. (q.v.).

Bull's Eye. 1. A sweetmeat of which peppermint is an important ingredient (1825). 2. A five-shilling piece, a bull (q.v.) (1696).

Bull's-eye Villas. A nickname given to the small open tents used by the Volunteers at their annual gathering.

Bull's Feather. *To give* [or *get*] *the bull's feather*, verbal phr. (old). To cuckold. Fr., *planter des plumes de bœuf* (1600).

Bull's-head. A signal of condemnation, and prelude of immediate execution, said to have been anciently used in Scotland (*Jamieson*).

Bull's-noon. Midnight (1839).

Bull-trap. A sham police constable.

Bully, subs. (old).—1. A fancy man (q.v.) (1706). 2. (Eton College). A *mêlée* at football; the equivalent of the Rugby scrimmage and the Winchester hot. 3. (nautical). A term of endearment: orig. of either sex—sweetheart, darling: now of men only—pal, mate. 4. A weapon formed by tying a stone or a piece of lead in a handkerchief: used knuckle-duster fashion. 5. A bravo, hector, swashbuckler; now spec. a tyrannical coward. As adj., fine, capital, crack, spiff (1681). *That's bully for you*, Grand, fine, all right, OK.

Bully boy (or ***bully boy with the glass eye***), a good fellow (1815).

Bully Beef. Tinned meat: iron ration (q.v.): in the navy, boiled salt meat.

Bully-boss. The landlord of a brothel or thieves' den.

Bully-cock. 1. One who foments quarrels in order to rob the persons quarrelling (*Grose*). 2. A low round hat with broad brim, billy-cock (q.v.).

Bully-huff. A boasting bully.

Bullyrag (or Ballyrag). To revile, abuse, scold vehemently—usually in vulgar or obscene language; also to swindle by means of intimidation.

Bullyragging. Scolding, abuse, swindling.

Bully-rook (or Bully-rock). Originally boon-companion; later, a swaggerer, bully, bravo (1596).

Bully Ruffian. A footpad or highwayman, who, to robbery, added coarse invective.

Bully-scribbler. A bullying journalist (1715).

Bully Trap. A man of mild outside demeanour who is a match for any ruffian who may attack him (*Grose*).

Bulrush. A simile of delusive strength. ***To seek a knot in a bulrush,*** to cavil, find difficulties where there are none: also in sarcasm, ***to take away every knot in a bulrush.***

Bum. 1. The posteriors (1387). 2. Bum bailiff (q.v.). 3. A birching, hiding, tanning. As verb, to arrest. ***Cherry bums,*** the 11th Hussars: the obvious reference is to the scarlet trousers worn by this branch of the service; a similar nickname is given to the French Chasseurs, *culs rouges.* ***To say neither ba nor bum,*** to say not a word.

Bum-bailiff (also Bum-baily). A bailiff or sheriff's officer (1602).

Bum Bass. The violoncello.

Bumbaste. To flog, thrash, beat soundly (1571).

Bum-beating. Jostling, pushing others off the pavement (1616).

Bumbee. A bailiff (1653).

Bum-blade. A large sword (1632).

Bumble. A beadle.

Bum-card. A marked playing-card.

Bumble-crew. Corporations, vestries, and other official bodies.

Bumbledom. Petty officialism, red tape, fussiness, pomposity (1856).

Bumble-bath (or broth). A mess, pickle, confusion; as adj., clumsy, unwieldy (1595).

Bumble-foot. A club-foot (1861).

Bumble-puppy. Family whist, i.e. unscientific whist. Also applied, says Hotten, to a game played in public houses on a large stone, placed in a slanting direction, on the lower end of which holes are made, and numbered like the holes in a bagatelle-table. The player rolls a stone ball, or marble, from the higher end, and according to the number of the hole it falls into the game is counted. It is undoubtedly the very ancient game of *Troule-in-madame.*

Bumbler. 1. An idle fellow. 2. A blunderer. 3. A Tyneside artilleryman.

Bumbles. Coverings for the eyes of horses that shy in harness.

Bumbo. A liquor composed of rum, sugar, water, and nutmeg (*Smollett*); brandy, water, and sugar (*Grose*).

Bum-brusher, subs. (schoolboys'). A flogging schoolmaster, an usher. English synonyms, flaybottom, haberdasher of pronouns (1704).

Bum Charter. The name given to bread steeped in hot water by the first unfortunate inhabitants of the English Bastile, where this miserable fare was their daily breakfast, each man receiving with his scanty portion of bread a quart of boiled water from the cook's coppers (*Vaux*).

Bum-court. The Ecclesiastical Court (1544).

Bumclink. In the Midland counties inferior beer brewed for haymakers and harvest labourers.

Bum-creeper. One who walks bent almost double.

Bum Curtain. An academical gown, worn scant and short; especially applied to the short black gown worn till 1835 by members of Caius College.

Bumf. Toilet paper.

Bumfeague (Bumfeagle, Bumfeg). To flog, thrash (1589).

Bumfhunt (Wellington College). A paper-chase.

Bum Fiddle. The posteriors.

Bum Fidget. A restless individual.

Bum Fodder. 1. Low-class worthless literature: once in literary use (1653). 2. Toilet paper, curl paper (q.v.) (*Grose*).

Bummaree. A Billingsgate middleman: these men, who are not recognised as regular salesmen by the trade, are speculative buyers of fish (1786).

Bummed. Arrested.

Bummer. 1. A bum-bailiff (q.v.) 2. A heavy loss, severe pecuniary reverse. 3. An idler, loafer, sponger, looter: the term came into general use at the time of the Civil War, when it was specially applied to a straggler, hanger-on, or free-lance, particularly in connection with General Sherman's famous march from Atlanta to the sea; also a general term of reproach, as with rascal, black-leg, etc.

Bumming (Wellington College). A thrashing, licking.

Bump. When one boat touches another in a race it is said to make a bump, and technically beats its opponent: see Bumping race. As verb, to overtake and touch an opposing boat, thus winning the heat or race (1849).

Bumper. 1. Anything of superlative size—a big lie, horse, house, or woman. 2. A full or crowded house (1838). 3. (cards). When, in long whist, one side has scored eight before the other has scored a point, a bumper is the result.

Bum-perisher (or **Bum-shaver**). A short-tailed coat, a jacket.

Bumping Race. Eight-oared inter-Collegiate races, rowed in two divisions of fifteen and sixteen boats respectively, including a sandwich boat (q.v.), i.e. the top boat of the second division, which rows bottom of the first: the boats in each division start at a distance apart of 175 feet from stern to stern in the order at which they left off at the last preceding race, and any boat which overtakes, and bumps another (i.e. touches it in any part) before the winning post is reached, changes place with it for the next race.

Bumpkin. The posteriors (1658).

Bumpology. Phrenology. *Bumposopher*, a phrenologist.

Bump-supper. A supper to commemorate the fact of the boat of the college having, in the annual races, bumped or touched the boat of another college immediately in front.

Bumpsy. Drunk: see Screwed.

Bumptious. Arrogant, self-sufficient, on good terms with oneself (1803).

Bumptiousness. Self-assertiveness, arrogance, self-conceit.

Bum-roll. A pad or cushion worn by women to extend the dress at the back—the equivalent of the modern bustle or dress-improver (1601).

Bumsquabbled. Discomfited, defeated, stupefied (1620).

Bum-sucker. A sponger, toady, lick-spittle, hanger-on: Fr., *leche-cul.*

Bum-trap. A bailiff (1750).

Bun. 1. A sponger, one who cannot be shaken off. 2. A knob of hair worn at the back of the head. 3. A term of endearment (1587). *To take* (or *yank*) *the bun*, to take first place, obtain first honours: a variant of take the cake.

Bunce (**Bunse** or **Bunt**). Originally money: see Rhino. 2. Profit, gain, anything to the good.

Buncer. One who sells on commission.

Bunch-of-fives. The hand or fist (1845).

Bunco (or **Bunco-game**). A swindling game played either with cards or dice, not unlike three card monté. As verb, to rob, cheat, or swindle by means of the bunco game; or by what in England is known as the confidence trick, etc.

Bunco-steerer (**Bunko-steerer**). A swindler, confidence-trick man:—The bunco-steerer . . . . will find you out the morning after you land in Chicago or St. Louis. He will accost you—very friendly, wonderfully friendly—when you come out of your hotel, by your name, and he will remind you—which is most surprising, considerin' you never set eyes on his face before—how you have dined together in Cincinnati, or it may be Orleans, or perhaps Francisco, because he finds out where you came from last; and he will shake hands with you; and he will propose a drink; and he will pay for that drink; and presently he will take you somewhere else, among his pals, and he will strip you so clean, that there won't be felt the price of a four-cent paper to throw around your face and hide your blushes. In London . . . they do the confidence trick (*Besant and Rice*).

Bundling (or **Bundling up**). Men and women sleeping on the same bed together without having removed their clothes.

Bung (Bong, Boung). 1. A purse (1567). 2. A pickpocket: also *Bung-nipper* (1598). 3. A brewer, landlord of a public house. Hence as adj., tipsy, fuddled; see Screwed. As verb, (1) generally bung up, i.e. to close or shut up the eyes by means of a blow that causes a swelling (1593); (2) to give, pass, hand over, drink, to perform almost any action: Bung over the rag, hand over the money; (3) to deceive one by a lie, to cram (q.v.).

Bungay. *Go to Bungay!* Go to the deuce!

Bung-eyed. 1. Drunk, fuddled: see Screwed (1858). 2. Cross-eyed, unable to see straight, boss-eyed, squinny-eyed (q.v.).

Bung-hole. The *anus* (1611).

Bungfunger. To startle, confuse: cf. Bumbsquabbled: also used as adj., confounded (1835).

Bung-juice. Beer.

Bung-knife (or Boung-knife). A cut-purse's knife (1592).

Bung-nipper (or Boung-nipper). A cut-purse, sharper.

Bung Upwards. Said of a person lying on his face.

Bunk. Hasty departure. As verb, (1) to be off, decamp; (2) (Wellington College), to expel.

Bunker. Beer: see Drinks.

Bunkum (Buncombe, Buncome). Talking for talking's sake, claptrap, gas, tall talk: the employment of the word in its original sense of insincere political speaking or claptrap is ascribed to a member of Congress, Felix Walker, from Buncombe County, North Carolina, who explained that he was merely talking for Buncombe, when his fellow members could not understand why he was making a speech. *That's all buncombe*, That's all nonsense, or, an absurdity. Also used attributively; for example, a bunkum proclamation, bunkum logic, bunkum politicians, etc. (1841).

Bunky (Christ's Hospital). Awkward, ill-finished.

Bunnick. To settle, dispose of (1886).

Bunny. An endearment: of women and children (1606).

Bunny-grub (Cheltenham College). Green vegetables, such as cabbage, lettuce, and the like: at the Royal Military Academy and other schools, grass (q.v.).

Bunse. See Bunce.

Bun-struggle (or Bun-worry). A tea: see Tea-fight.

Bunt. See Bunce.

Bunter. A low vulgar woman, one who picks up rags and refuse in the street. 2. A woman who takes lodgings, and after staying some time, runs away without paying the rent.

Bunting. An endearment to a child: as in Baby bunting.

Burdon's Hotel. Whitecross Street Prison, of which the Governor was a Mr. Burdon: see Cage.

Burick (or Burerk). A woman; spec. one showily dressed; formerly a thief's term for a prostitute (1819).

Burke. 1. To murder by strangulation: as Burke did for the purpose of selling the bodies for dissection. 2. To hush up, smother a matter. 3. To dye the moustache and whiskers.

Burn. To cheat, swindle. *To be burned*, to be infected with venereal disease. *To burn the parade*, to warn more men for a guard than necessary, and excusing the supernumeraries for money: this practice was formerly winked at in most garrisons, and was a considerable perquisite to the adjutants and sergeant-majors; the pretence for it was to purchase coal and candle for the guard, whence it was called burning the parade. *Burn my breeches!* A mild kind of oath. *To burn the ken*, to live at an inn or tavern without paying for one's quarters. *His money burns in his pocket*, he is eager to spend (1740). *To burn one's boats behind one*, to cut off all chance of retreat. *To burn the Thames*, to perform some prodigy. *To burn daylight*, to burn candles in the daytime. *To burn fine weather*, to fail to turn it to advantage. *To burn the candle at both ends*: see Candle. *To burn the planks*, to remain long sitting. *To burn one's fingers*, to suffer through meddling. *To burn a stone*, to displace by accident.

Burnand. To pilfer plots of plays, novels, etc.): from the name of Mr. F. Burnand, the editor of *Punch*.

Burn-crust. A baker: cf. Master of the mint, a gardener; Bung, a brewer;

Ball of wax, a shoemaker; Quill-driver, a clerk; Snip, a tailor, etc.

Burner. A card-sharper.

Burr. A hanger on, dependant, sponger. As verb (Marlborough College), to fight, scrimmage, rag.

Burst. 1. A spree, drunken frolic, big feed, blow out (q.v.): usually, On the burst. 2. A sudden and vigorous access (or display) of energy, a lively pace or spurt.

Bursted. Hard up.

Burster. 1. A heavy fall, cropper. 2. See Buster.

Bury. *Go bury yourself!* A Californianism which has more of the *fortiter* than the *suaviter* in its composition: equivalent to, Go! hide your diminished head: cf. Carry me out and bury me decently. *To bury* (or *dig up*) *the hatchet*: amongst Indian tribes certain symbolic ceremonies are connected with the war-hatchet or tomahawk, which are equivalent to a declaration of war, or a compact of peace: *To bury the hatchet* is the emblem of the putting away of strife and enmity; on the other hand, the redskin, before he commences hostilities, digs up afresh the fateful symbol. *To bury a moll*, to desert a wife or mistress. *To bury a Quaker*, to evacuate, ease oneself. *To bury a wife*, to feast and make merry: used in connection with the jollifications frequently indulged in by apprentices on the completion of their term of indenture, when they became full-blown craftsmen.

Bus (or **Buss**). 1. Business (q.v.): pronounced *biz*. 2. Omnibus (1832). As verb, to punch one's head.

Bush. 1. To camp out in the bush, get lost in the bush. Hence, 2. to be in a mental or a physical difficulty, to be muddled. *To beat about the bush*, to prevaricate, avoid coming to the point, go indirectly to one's object.

Bushed. Hard up, without money, destitute (1812).

Bushed On. Pleased, delighted.

Bushwhacker. A free-lance: during the American Civil War deserters from the ranks of both armies infested the country, making raids upon defenceless houses and sacking whole towns.

Bushy-park. A lark. *To be in bushy park*, to be poor.

Business. Dramatic action, bye-play (1753). *To do one's business for one*, to kill, cause one's death.

Business End [of a thing]. The practical part.

Busk. *To busk it*, to sell songs, books, and other articles at bars and tap-rooms of public houses: also to work public houses and certain spots as an itinerant musician.

Busker. See Busk.

Busnapper. See Buz-napper.

Buss Beggar. An old prostitute of the lowest type, a beggar's trull.

Bust. 1. A corrupted form of burst: also busting, busted. 2. A burglary. 3. A frolic, spree, drunken debauch: cf. to go on the bust. 4. A failure, fizzle. As verb, (1) to burst, explode, (2) to commit a burglary; (3) to inform against an accomplice; (4) to fail in business or transactions of any kind; (5) to put out of breath, wind; (6) to indulge in a drunken frolic, go on the spree; (7) to destroy, commit suicide, set aside, expose. *Bust me!* A mild oath—Blow me! Jigger me!

Buster. 1. A new loaf; also a coarse cake or bun of large size that fills or blows out the stomach (1821). 2. A burglar: see Thief. 3. Anything of superior size, that has unusual capacity, that causes admiration, a spurt. *To come a buster*, to fall heavily, to come a cropper. *In for a buster*, prepared, ready (or determined) for a spree (1852). 4. A heavy storm from the south, brick-fielder (q.v.).

Busting. Informing against accomplices, turning King's evidence.

Bustle. 1. A pad, roll, or wire contrivance worn by women at the back in order to extend the dress, and also with a view to setting off the smallness of the waist (1788). 2. Money: see Rhino. As verb, to confuse, confound, perplex.

Busy-head. A busybody.

Busy-idler. A person busy about trifles.

Busy-sack. A carpet-bag: in America a grip-sack.

Butch. To follow the trade of a butcher.

Butcher. 1. The king in playing-cards: when card-playing in public houses was common, the kings were called butchers, the queens bitches, and the knaves jacks: Fr., *bœuf*. 2. A peripatetic vendor of varieties and 'notions' on railway cars—at once a convenience and a terror. 3. A prison doctor. 4. A malevolent critic. As verb, to murder a reputation, to mangle an author's lines. *To butcher about* (Wellington College), to make a great noise, humbug.

Butcher's-bill. The list of those killed in battle.

Butcher's Mourning. A white hat with a black mourning hat-band.

Butteker. A shop.

Butter. Fulsome flattery, unctuous praise, soft soap: Fr., *cirage* (1819). As verb, (1) to flatter fulsomely, indulge in rhodomantic praise: Fr., *cirer* (1700); (2) to increase the stakes every throw or every game (1696). *To look as if butter would not melt in one's mouth*, a contemptuous saying of persons of simple demeanour (1475). *Will cut butter when it's hot*, said of a knife when blunt. *Butter and eggs*, going down a slide on one foot and beating with the heel and toe of the other at short intervals.

Butter-bag (or **Butter-box**). A Dutchman (1600).

Butter-boat. *To empty the butter-boat*, to lavish praise, to butter (q.v.).

Buttercup. A pet name for a child.

Buttered. 1. Whipped. 2. Flattered.

Butter-fingered. Apt to let things fall, greasy (or slippery) fingered. *Butter-fingers*, one who lets things slip easily from a hold (1615).

Butter-flap. A light cart, i.e. a trap.

Butterfly. 1. A river barge. 2. The guard for the reins affixed to the top of a hansom cab.

Butternuts. The sympathisers with the South in the North and the Middle States during the American Civil War; the term was derived from the colour of the uniforms worn in the early part of the war by Confederate soldiers in the West, which, being homespun, were dyed brown with the juice of the butternut.

Butter-print. A child; usually when illegitimate (1620).

Buttock. A common prostitute (1674).

Buttock-and-file. A prostitute and her companion; sometimes bulk and file; occasionally buttock and file is used of a single individual—one who unites the *roles* of a thief and prostitute (1671).

Buttock-and-tongue. A scolding woman, shrew.

Buttock-and-twang. A common prostitute, but who is no thief.

Button. 1. A shilling: formerly good currency, now only of counterfeit coin: see Rhino. 2. A decoy of any kind, whether the confederate of confidence-trick men, or a sham buyer at an auction. As verb, to decoy, act as confederate in swindles: Fr., *aguicher*. *Not to care a button* (or *brass button*), to care nothing. *To have a button on*, to have a fit of the blues (q.v.), despondent. *To button up*, when a broker has bought stock on speculation and it falls suddenly on his hands, whereby he is a loser, he keeps the matter to himself, and is reluctant to confess the ownership of a share: this is called buttoning up.

Button-burster (or **Button-buster**). A low comedian.

Button-catcher. A tailor. English synonyms: snip, cabbage contractor, steel-bar, driver, goose persuader, sufferer, ninth part of a man, etc.

Buttoner. A card-sharper's decoy (1841).

Button-pound. Money: generic: see Rhino.

Buttons. A page; sometimes *boy in buttons* (1860). *Dash my buttons* (*wig*, etc.) a mild oath; also employed to express vexation or surprise. *Not to have all one's buttons*, to be deficient in intellect, slightly cracky, to have a bee in one's bonnet. *To have a soul above buttons*, to be above one's work or duty, to think one's ability superior to one's position. *To make buttons*, to look sorry, sad, to be in great fear (1593).

Butty. A comrade, partner.

Buvare. Drink: generic.

Buy. *To buy a prop*, a term used to signify that the market has gone flat, and that there is no one to support it.

Buz (or **Buzz**). A parlour game which is thus described by Hotten, who, however, erroneously limited it to public-houses:—The leader commences saying one, the next on the left hand two, the next three, and so on to *seven*, when buz must be said; every seven and multiple of 7, as 14, 17, 21, 27, 28 etc., must not be mentioned but buz instead; whoever break the rule pays a fine. As verb, (1) some uncertainty exists as to whether to buz signifies to drain a bottle or decanter to the last drop, or whether it means to share equally the last of a bottle of wine, when there is not enough for a full glass to each of the party; (2) to pick pockets; (3) to search for, look about one.

Buz-bloke, Buz-cove, Buz-gloak. See Buz-napper.

Buz-man. 1. A pickpocket. 2. An informer.

Buz-napper. A pickpocket: see Thief (1781).

Buz-napper's Academy. A training school for thieves: figures were dressed up, and experienced tutors stood in various difficult attitudes for the boys to practise upon; when clever enough they were sent on the streets: Dickens gives full particulars of this old style of business in *Oliver Twist*.

Buz-napper's Kinchin. A watchman.

Buzzing (or **Buz-faking**). Pocket-picking.

By-blow. An illegitimate child: also By-chop and By-slip (1594).

By Cracky! An ejaculation conveying no idea beyond that of general surprise.

Bye-drink. Liquid refreshment taken at other than meal-times (1766).

By George! An ejaculation signifying either surprise, or anger, or used without any special meaning (1731).

By Goldam! A semi-veiled oath.

By Golly! Euphemistic for By God (1743).

By Gorram! See By Goldam!

By Gosh! A euphemistic oath.

By Gum! By Gummy! intj. phr. Expletives from the great American *Dictionary of Oaths and Cuss Words*, compiled by descendants of the Puritan Fathers.

By hook or by crook. See Hook.

By Hooky. A veiled oath.

Byng, Bing. To go. *Byngeawaste*, to go away (1567).

By-scape (or **slip**). A bastard (1646).

By the Ever-living Jumping Moses! An effective ejaculation and moral waste-pipe for interior passion or wrath is seen in the exclamation, By the ever-living jumping Moses! — a harmless phrase, that for its length expends a considerable quantity of fiery anger.—*Hotten.*

By the Living Jingo! (or **By Jingo!**) See Jingo.

By the Wind. Hard up, in difficulties.

Cab. 1. An adventitious aid to study, a crib, a pony (q.v.). As verb, to use a crib; cf. cabbage (1853). 2. A brothel (1811). 3. A cavalier (17th century); cf. Sp., *caballero*. 4. A cabriolet: also any vehicle to seat two or four persons plying for hire. Whence, 5. A cabman (also Cabby): e.g. Call a cab! As verb, to travel by cab: cf. foot it, hoof it, tram it, train it, 'bus it. Hence *cabber*, a cab-horse: cf. Vanner, Wheeler, etc.

Cabbage. 1. Pieces purloined by tailors; hence any small profits in the shape of material. [*Johnson*: a canting term.] As verb, to purloin material, to take toll (q.v.). Also, cold-slaw (American): cf. Pigeon-skewings. Cabbage is stored in hell (q.v.) or one's eye (q.v.) (1638). 2. A tailor, also cabbager and cabbage-contractor (q.v.) (1690). 3. A style of dressing the hair: similar to the modern chignon: Fr., *kilo* (1690). 4. A translation, crib (q.v.); also cab (q.v.) 5. A cigar: Fr., *feuille de platane*, *crapulos* (or *crapulados*): see Weed.

Cabbage-contractor. See Cabbage.

Cabbage-gelder. A greengrocer or market gardener.

Cabbage-head. A fool, soft-head, go-along (q.v.): see Buffle (1682).

Cabbage-leaf. A bad cigar; also cabbage. [A popular theory of material.] Fr., *infectados*. See Weed.

Cabbage Plant. An umbrella, gamp (q.v.), brolly (q.v.).

Cabbager. A tailor.

Cabbage-stumps. In pl., the legs: see Drumsticks.

Cabbage-tree Mob. A larrikin (q.v.). [A low-crowned cabbage-palm hat is affected by this section of Australian society.] Also Cabbagites.

Cabby. A cabman: Fr., *hirondelle* and *maraudeur* (1852).

Cable. To send a telegram by ocean (submarine) wire: cf. Wire. *To dip* or *cut one's cable*, to die; see Hop the twig.

Cable-hanger. An oyster dredger not free of the fishery.

Cab-moll. A prostitute.

Cabobbled. Confused, puzzled, perplexed.

Caboodle. A crowd; usually, the whole caboodle. [Boodle (q.v.) was frequently used in the same sense, which is indifferently applied] (1858).

Caboose. Convivial quarters, a bachelor's snuggery, a den (q.v.), diggings (q.v.). *The whole caboose*, a variation of caboodle (q.v.).

Cacafuego. A spitfire, braggart, bully (1625).

Cachunk! An exclamation intended to convey an imitation of the sound of a falling body: onomatopœic —the bow-wow word of Max Müller. Variants are, Caswash, Cawhalux, Chewallop, Casouse, Cathump, Kerplunk, Katouse, Katoose, Kelumpus, Kerchunk, Kerswosh, Kerslosh, Kerswollop, Kerblinkityblunk, and Kerblam.

Cackle. 1. The dialogue of a play, spec. a clown's patter: whence *cackle-chucker*, a prompter; *cackle-merchant*, a dramatist; *cackler* (or *cackling-cove*), an actor, preacher, or lecturer; *cackle-tub*, a pulpit. 2. Idle talk, inconsequent chatter, a short spasmodic laugh; and as verb, to talk idly, fussily, or loudly of petty things, as a hen after laying an egg: see Cackler (1676).

Cackler. 1. A fowl: also cackling cheat (1672). English synonyms: beaker, cackler, margery prater, galeny, partlet, chickabiddy, rooster, chuck-chuck, chuckie. French synonyms: *becquant*, *ornichon*, *pique-en-terre* (peck-the-ground), *estable* (or *estaphle*), *bruantez* (Breton). Whence *cackling-fruit*, an egg, and *cackler's-ken*, a fowl-house. 2. A noisy talker, blab (q.v.) (1400).

Cackling-cove. An actor. English synonyms: mummery-cove, mug-faker, mummer, mugger (properly an actor who makes free play with his face), tragedy or comedy merchant, pro, stroller, cackle-faker, barnstormer, surf.

Cad. A term of contempt: spec. an offensive or ill-bred person, irrespective of social position, but formerly of underlings and others performing menial offices. [*O. E. D.*: apparently from *cadet* and the popular forms *cadee* and *caddie*; cadator suggests a collateral, if an independent origin.] The vocable has passed through a variety of meanings. 1. A passenger taken up by coach drivers for their own profit. 2. A chum or companion. 3. An assistant. 4. An omnibus conductor. 5. A messenger or errand boy. 6. A non-school or non-university man. At Cambridge, snob (q.v.), the word Thackeray used, has long been a common term for a townsman; now the undergrad says Townee or Towner (q.v.) (1831). 7. A vulgar, ill-mannered person, a blackguard, i.e. a person incapable of moral decency (1849). Hence *caddish*, vulgar, offensively bred.

Cadator. A beggar apeing a decayed gentleman (1703).

Caddie. An attendant at golf.

Cade. The Burlington Arcade: cf. Zoo, Proms, Pops, Cri.

Cadge. The profession of cadging or begging. As verb, to obtain by begging, to beg in an artful wheedling manner. Here *cadging* (or *on the cadge*), on the make (q.v.); among intimates *to cadge a dinner* or *supper* is often used without implied reproach: see Cadger (1811). English synonyms: to mump, pike, mouch, stand the pad, maund, tramp, mike.

Cadge-cloak (or **Gloak**). A beggar (1791).

Cadger. 1. Primarily a carrier, pedlar, or itinerant dealer. 2. A whining beggar, sponger (q.v.), snide (q.v.). Eng. synonyms: Abram man, croaker, Abraham cove, Tom of Bedlam, Bedlam beggar, maunderer, moucher, pikey, traveller, turnpike or dry-land sailor, scoldrum, shyster, shivering James, silver beggar, skipper-bird, mumper, paper-worker, goose-shearer, master of the black art, durrynacker.

Cady. A hat, also cadey and caddy: see Golgotha.

Caffan. See Cassan.

Caffre's Tightener. A full meal.

Cage. 1. A petty prison, a country lock-up (1500). English synonyms (generic): academy, boat, boarding-house, bower, block-house, bastille, bladhunk, stone-jug, jug, calaboose, cooler, coop, downs, clink, jigger, Irish theatre, quod, shop, stir, clinch, steel, sturrabin, mill, toll-shop, floating hell, floating academy, dry room, House that Jack Built, choakee. Special names for particular prisons: Bates's Farm or Garden (Cold Bath Fields), Akerman's Hotel (Newgate), Castieu's Hotel (Melbourne Gaol, Burdon's Hotel (White Cross Street Prison), Ellenborough Lodge, Spike or Park (the King's Bench Prison, to which, as a matter of fact, every Chief-Justice stood godfather), Campbell's Academy (the Hulks), City College and Whittington's College (Newgate), Tench, Pen, and Smith's Hotel (Edinburgh). 2. A dress-improver, bustle: see Bird-cage 3. A bed; also Breeding-cage. 4. The Ladies' Gallery in the House of Commons, also called the Chamber of Horrors, which, however, is properly the Peeresses' Gallery in the Upper House.

Cagg. A term used by private soldiers, a solemn vow or resolution not to get drunk for a certain time; or, as the term is, till their cagg is out, which vow is commonly observed with the strictest exactness: e.g. 'I have cagg'd myself for six months. Excuse me this time, and I will cagg myself for a year.' Common in Scotland, where the vow is performed with divers ceremonies (*Grose*).

Cag-mag. 1. A tough old goose; hence, 2. refuse, rubbish, scraps and ends (1769).

Cain. *To raise Cain*, to be quarrelsome, make a disturbance: also *to raise hate*, *hell* (or *hell and tommy*), and *to raise Ned* (q.v.). *To pay the cain*, to pay the penalty.

Cain and Abel. A table.

Cainsham-smoke. The tears of a wife-beaten husband (*Dunton*) (1694).

Cake (or Cakey). 1. A fool, a dullard: see Buffle (*Grose*). 2. A stupid policeman. 3. (Christ's Hospital). A stroke with a cane: also as verb, *to take the cake*, to rank highest, carry off honours, be the best of a kind, fill the bill (theatrical). In certain sections of the U.S.A. cake walks have long had a vogue among the coloured people. The young bucks 'get themselves up regardless,' and walk from one end of a hall to the other, under the gaze of dusky beauty and the critical glance of judges. The marking is done on a scale of numbers, and ties are walked off with the utmost finish and rare attention to style. The prize is a cake, and the winner takes it.] Also to take (or yank) the bun, to slide away with the Banbury, to annex the whole confectioner's shop: cf. *to take the kettle*, to take the prize for lying. *Hurry up the cakes!* Look sharp! [Buckwheat and other oat cakes form a staple dish at many American tables.] *Like hot cakes*, quickly, with energy; a variant of like winking, or one o'clock. Phrases: You can't eat your cake and have it; One's cake is dough, one's project has failed; Every cake has its mate, make, or fellow.

Cake-fiddler (or Fumbler). A parasite.

Cakes and Ale. A good time: also Cakes and cheese.

Cakey-pannum Fencer. See Pannum-fencer.

Calaboose. A common gaol. [From the Sp., *calabozo*, through the French.] Also as verb, to imprison (1840).

Calculate. To think, expect, believe, intend: see Guess and Reckon. Sometimes (New England) cal'late (1830).

Calends. See Greek Kalends.

Caleys. Caledonian Railway Ordinary Stock.

Calf. 1. An ignoramus, dolt, weakling: cf. Calf lolly (1553). For synonyms, see Buffle. 2. An endearment: cf. Puss, Ape, Monkey, etc. 3. See Essex calf. *To eat the calf in the cow's belly*, to anticipate, to count one's chickens before they are hatched (1748). *To slip the calf*, to suffer abortion, to be brought to bed: properly of cattle. *Calf-bed*, a cow's matrix; also parturition: cf. Child-bed and Bairn's-bed (q.v.).

Calf-clinger. In pl., pantaloons, i.e. close-fitting trousers.

Calf-country (land or ground). One's birthplace; the scene of early life. Also *Calf-time*, the period of youth.

Calf, Cow, and Bull Week. Before the passing of the Factory Acts it was customary in manufacturing districts to work very long hours for three weeks before Christmas. In the first, calf week, the ordinary hours were but slightly exceeded; in the second, cow week, they were considerably augmented; and in the third, or bull week, operatives spent the greater portion of the twenty-four in their workshop.

Calf's-head. A stupid, witless individual (1600). See Buffle.

Calf-lick. See Cow-lick.

Calf-lolly. An idle simpleton; a generic reproach (1653).

Calf-love. A youthful fancy, romantic attachment (1823).

Calfskin-fiddle. A drum.

Calf-sticking. Selling worthless rubbish, on the pretence that it is smuggled goods, to any foolish or unscrupulous person who can be inveigled into purchasing it.

Calibogus. A mixture of rum and spruce beer, an American beverage (*Grose*).

Calico. Thin, wasted, attenuated (*Bailey*, 1725).

Calico-bally. Somewhat fast; one always on the look-out for amusement.

Californian. A red herring: see Glasgow Magistrate. In pl., generic for gold pieces.

Californian-widow. A married woman whose husband is absent, a grass-widow (q.v.). The least offensive sense. [At the period of the Californian gold fever many men went West, leaving their wives and families behind them.]

Calk (Eton). To throw.

Call (Eton). The time when the masters do not call Absence (q.v.). *To have or get a call upon*, to have a preference, get the first chance. *To call a go*, to change one's stand, alter one's tactics, give in at any game or business. See Coals, Put, Spade, Wigging.

Calle. A cloak or gown (*Grose*).

Calp (or Kelp). A hat: see Golgotha.

Calvert's Entire. The Fourteenth Foot. [From its colonel's name (1806-1826): three entire battalions were kept up for the good of Sir Harry, when adjutant-general, with an eye on Calvert's malt liquors.]

Calves. *Calves gone to grass*, thin legs, spindle-shanks. *There are many ways of dressing calves' heads*, many ways of saying or doing a foolish thing, a simpleton showing his folly, or, generally, if one way won't do, we must try another. *Calves' heads are best hot*, a sarcastic apology for sitting down to eat with one's hat on.

Calx (Eton). The goal line at football. [From a Latin sense of *calx*, a goal, anciently marked with lime or chalk.] As Eton calx is a space so marked off at each end of wall (q.v.); good calx is the end at which there is a door for a goal; bad calx the end where part of an elm tree serves the purpose.

Cambridge-oak. A willow: cf. Cotswold lion, Cambridgeshire nightingale, etc.

Cambridgeshire (or Fen Nightingale). A frog. [The county is scored with canals and dykes.]

Camden-town. A halfpenny, brown (q.v.): see Rhino.

Camel. A great hulking fellow.

Camel's Complaint. Low spirits, the hump (q.v.).

Camese. A shirt, chemise, shimmy. [Sp. *camisa*, It. *camicia*.] The word appears in various forms from the beginning of the seventeenth century, e.g. camisa, camiscia, kemesa, camise, and in a more genuinely English dress as commission, which in turn is shortened to mish.

Camister. A clergyman, a blackgown (1851).

Camp. *To go to camp*, to go to bed, take rest. [In early settler days a camp was formed whenever a halt for the night was called.] *To take into camp*, to kill. *To camp*, to surpass, floor.

Campbell's Academy. The hulks, or lighters, on board which felons were condemned to hard labour. [Mr. Campbell was the first director.]

Camp-candlestick. 1. An empty bottle,; 2. a bayonet.

Camp-fire. A military social gathering.

Camp-follower. A prostitute, soldiers' trull.

Camp-stool Brigade. People who wait outside a place of entertainment for hours in order to secure seats. [Camp-stools, now prohibited by police order, formed part of the outfit.]

Can. 1. A dollar piece: see Rhino. 2. A general servant, slavey (q.v.).

Canack, Canuck, Kanuck, K'nuck. A Canadian: usually K'nuck. [Obscure, and limited in application: within the Canadian frontier a Canuck is understood to be a French Canadian, just as within the limits of the Union only New Englanders are termed Yankees; elsewhere the appellation is used indiscriminately.]

Canary (or **Canary-bird**). 1. A prisoner (1678). 2. A mistress. 3. A sovereign, 20s.: formerly a guinea. English synonyms: yellow boy, goldfinch, yellowhammer, shiner, gingleboy monarch, couter, bean, foont, James (from Jacobus), poona, portrait, quid, thick 'un, skin, skiv, dragon, goblin: a guinea was also called a 'ned.' French synonyms (twenty franc piece): *jaunet sigue* (*sigle*, *sigolle* or *cig*), *bonnet jaune*, *bouton*, *maltaise*, *moule a boutons*, *medaille d'or*. 4. A female watcher or stall (q.v.), mollisher (q.v.): cf. Crow, a male watcher: Fr. *marque franche*. 5. (Salvation Army), a written promise of a donation or subscription. [At some of the meetings of the Army, instead of sending round the plate, the officers distribute slips of paper on which those present are invited to record their intentions: the original colour of the slips was yellow.]

Cancer. *To catch* or *capture a cancer.* See Crab. (1857).

Candle. In pl., mucus at the nose. Phrases: *To hold a candle to another*, to help: see Devil; *not able* (or *fit*) *to hold a candle to*, useless, nothing to be compared to; *to sell* (or *let*) *by the candle* (or *by inch of candle*), to sell by candle-auction: bids are received whilst a small piece of candle burns, the last bid before the candle goes out securing the article; *to smell of the candle*, to show trace of study or night-work: cf. *to smell of the lamp*; *the game* (*play*, etc.) *is not worth the candle*, the end (or result) does not justify the cost or labour expended; *to light* (or *burn*) *the candle at both ends*, to consume (or waste) in two directions at once: cf. Fr., *Le jeu ne veut pas la chandelle* (*Cotgrave*). Also Proverbs and Proverbial sayings: Set forth the brightness of the sun with a candle; He burns one candle to seek another: losing both time and labour; To set a candle in the sunshine; They grope in the dark that light not their candle at once; To hold a farthing candle to the sun; To hide one's candle under a bushel (Biblical: Matt. v. 15).

Candle-end. In pl., a thing of little value (short duration, or small importance), trifle, fragment. *To drink off* (or *eat*) *candle ends*, a romantic extravagance in drinking a lady's health, by which gallants gave token of their devotion.

Candle-keeper (Winchester). One of eight seniors in college by election who are not præfects. [Most of the privileges of præfects are enjoyed without their powers.] (1840).

Candlestick. 1. (Winchester). A candidate (1840). 2. (London). In pl., the fountains in Trafalgar Square.

Candle-waster. 1. A night-student: whence *candle-wasting*: cf. *To smell of the candle*, to show traces of study at night. 2. A small portion of burning wick that, falling on the candle, causes it to run.

Candy. Drunk: see Screwed (*Grose*).

Candyman. A bailiff, a process server. [In 1863, during a strike of miners at the collieries of Messrs. Strakers and Love, in Durham County, a hawker of candy and sweetmeats was employed to serve writs of ejectment.]

Canister. 1. The head: see Crumpet (1811). 2. A hat: also canister-cap: see Golgotha.

Cank. Dumb, silent. [Curiously enough, cank also signifies to chatter, cackle as a goose; it only survives in this latter sense.] (1673).

Cannibal (Cambridge). In Bumping races (q.v.) a college may be represented by more than one boat, the best talent being put into the first; but it has sometimes happened that the crew of the second have disappointed the prophets and bumped the first of its own college. It is thus termed a cannibal, having eaten up its own kind, and a fine is exacted from it by the University Boat Club.

Cannikin (or **Canniken**). The plague (1688).

Cannis-cove. A dog-fancier. [Latin, *canis*, a dog.]

Cannon. See Canon.

Cannon-ball. An irreconcilable opponent of free trade.

Canoe. *To paddle one's own canoe*, to make one's own way in life, exhibit skill and energy, succeed unaided: of Western American origin, but now universal. Also *to bail one's own boat*; Fr., *il conduit* or *il mene bien sa barque* (1845).

Canon (or **Cannon**). **Drunk**: see Screwed.

Canoodle. 1. To fondle, bill and coo. 2. (Oxford). To paddle a canoe. 3. To share profits. 4. To coax.

Canoodler. See Canoodle.

Canoodling. Endearments.

Cant. 1. The secret speech or jargon of the vagrant classes—gipsies, thieves, beggars, etc.; hence, contemptuously, the peculiar phraseology of a particular class of subject: see Thieves' Latin, St. Giles' Greek, Peddlars' French, etc. (q.v.). Also as verb, to whine, to speak the jargon of gipsies, beggars, and other vagrants, and (generic), to speak, to talk (1567). 2. A blow or toss. 3. Food: also Kant, but cf. sense 4. (1851). 4. A gift.

Cantab. A student at Cambridge University: i.e. Cantabrigian (1750).

Cantabank. A common ballad singer.

Cantankerous. Cross-grained, ill-humoured, self-willed, productive of strife. Hence cantankerously, cantankerousness, cantankerate (verb), and cantankersome (1773).

Cante. See Canter.

Canteen-medal. A stripe for the consumption of liquor.

Canter. A vagrant, beggar, one who cants (q.v.) or uses the secret language otherwise called Peddlars' French, St. Giles' Greek, etc.

Canterbury. In derisive allusion (old Puritan) to the see of Canterbury: e.g. *Canterbury-tale* (or *story*), a tedious yarn, friars' tale or fable, cock-and-bull story (q.v.); *Canterbury-trick*, mean dodge; *Canterbury pace* (*rack, rate, trot, gallop*), the pace of a pilgrim on his way to the shrine of St. Thomas ā Becket, a half gallop.

Canticle. A parish clerk (*Grose*).

Canting. The jargon used by beggars, thieves, gipsies, and vagrants: see Cant (1547).

Canting Crew. See Canter.

Can't. See National Intelligencer, Hole, Ladder.

Canuck. See Canack.

Canvass. *To receive the canvass*, to be dismissed, to get the sack (q.v.): see Bag (1652).

Canvasseens. In pl., sailors' canvas trousers: see Kicks.

Canvas-town. The Volunteer Encampment, formerly at Wimbledon, now at Bisley, at the meeting of the National Rifle Association: also any camp or baby-city.

Cap. 1. A false cover to a tossing coin; also cover-down: the cap shows either head or tail as it is left on or taken off. 2. The proceeds of an improvised collection: cf. to send round the cap or hat (1851). 3. (Westminster). The amount of the collection at Play and Election dinners. [The College cap is passed round on the last night of Play for contributions.] As verb, (1) To stand by a friend, take part in any undertaking, lend a hand. (2) To take off (or touch) one's hat in salutation; also to cap to, and to cap it (1593). *To cap one's lucky*, to run away: see Bunk; *to cap* (or *cast*) *one's skin*, to strip naked; *to set one's cap at*, to set oneself to gain the affections: only of women (1773); *to cap a quotation* (*anecdote, proverb*, etc.), to fit with a second from the same, or another, author; to go one better, in the way of anecdote or legend (1584); *to pull caps*, to wrangle in an unseemly way: only of women (1763); *to cast one's cap at*, to be indifferent, give up as a bad job; *to come* (*fall under*, or *lie*) *in one's cap*, to occur to mind, run in the head; *to put on one's thinking* (or *considering*) *cap*, to pass under review, think out; *the cap fits*, the remark or description applies; *to have enough under one's cap*, to be drunk: see Screwed; *to throw up one's cap*, to manifest pleasure by throwing one's cap in the air; to *kiss caps with* to drink out of the same vessel: hence *kiss of a cap*; *to drink cap out*, to empty; also (proverbial), If your cap be of wool; As sure as your cap is of wool; My cap is better at ease than my head; Ready as a borrowed cap.

Cape Cod Turkey. Salted cod: also Marblehead turkey: cf. Billingsgate pheasant, Yarmouth capon, and Albany beef (1865).

Capella. A coat [Italian]. English synonyms: benjamin, cover-me-decently, upper benjamin (a great-coat), joseph, wrap-rascal, claw-hammer, swallow-tail, steel-pen (all three, a dress coat), M.B. coat, panupetaston, rock-a-low, reliever, pygostole, ulster, monkey-jacket: see Caster.

Cape Nightingale. A frog: cf. Cambridgeshire nightingale.

Capeovi. Sick, seedy (q.v.).

Caper. A device, idea, performance, occupation; in America, a racket (q.v.), e.g. the 'real estate racket' or 'caper' (1867). *To cut a caper upon nothing*, or *to eat caper sauce*, to be hanged: see Ladder. (1708).

Caper-juice. Whisky.

Caper-merchant. A dancing master, hop-merchant (q.v.) (*Grose*).

Capital. *To work capital*, to commit an offence punishable with death.

Capivi (or **Capivvy**). *To cry capivvy*, to be persecuted to the death, or very near it.

Capon. 1. A red herring; but applied to other kinds of fish; herrings now receiving the distinctive cognomen of Yarmouth capons (1640). 2. A term of reproach—dullard, fool: see Buffle (1542). 3. A eunuch (1594). 4. A billet-doux: cf. (*Cotgrave*) Fr., *poulet*, a chicken, also a love letter, or love message (1588).

Capon-justice. A corrupt judge (1639).

Cappadochio (**Caperdochy**, or **Caperdewsie**). A prison: see Cage. (1600).

Capper. 1. A confederate; at cards one who makes false bids in order to encourage a genuine player. 2. A dummy bidder whose function is either to start the bidding or to run up the price of articles for sale. 3. A person or thing who caps, or beats, all others; a thing which beats one's comprehension (1790).

Capper-clawing. See Clapper-clawing.

Capsick. Drunk: see Screwed.

Captain. 1. A familiar and jesting address: cf. Governor, Boss, etc. (1598). 2. A gaming or bawdy-house bully (1731). Captain is also a fancy title for a highwayman in a good way of business: Fletcher uses the term copper-captain, as also does Washington Irving, for one who has no right to the title, and, in modern athletics, we have the captain of a club or crew, with the corresponding verb, to captain. 3. Money: see Rhino. 4. A glandered horse.

Captain Armstrong. *To come Captain Armstrong*, to pull a horse and prevent him from winning. Also *Captain Armstrong*, a dishonest jockey.

Captain Copperthorn's Crew. All officers: of a company where everyone wants to be first in command.

Captain Cork. A man slow in passing the bottle.

Captain Crank. The chief of a gang of highwaymen.

Captain Grand. A haughty, blustering fellow: see Furioso.

Captain Hackum. A hectoring bully (*Grose*).

Captain Lieutenant. Meat neither young enough for veal, nor old enough for beef. [Properly a brevet officer who, ranking as captain, receives lieutenant's pay (*Grose*).]

Captain Queernabs. A shabby, ill-dressed man: see Guy.

Captain Quiz. A mocker.

Captain Sharp. A cheating bully, one whose office it is to bully a 'pigeon' refusing to pay up (*Grose*).

Captain Tom. The leader of a mob; also the mob itself (*Grose*).

Caravan. 1. A dupe, gull, subject of plunder: see Bubble (1676). 2. A large sum of money (1690). 3. A train chartered to convey people to a prize fight. [Early in the present century caravan, now shortened to van, was applied to a third class covered railway carriage; now a pleasure party is so described; also a gipsy's cart; also the wheeled cages of a travelling menagerie.]

Caravansera. A railway station: thus: The scratch must be toed at sharp five, so the caravan will start at four from the caravansera (*Hotten*).

Card. 1. A device, expedient, or undertaking: e.g. a good card, a strong card, a safe card, a likely, or a doubtful card (1537). 2. A character, odd fish, eccentric; generally with knowing, old, queer, downy, rum, etc.: cf. Hamlet, v. ii. (from the card table, such expressions as, a sure card, a sound card, being of very ancient use. Osric tells Hamlet that Laertes is the card and calendar of gentry) (1835). 3. The ticket (q.v.), the figure, the correct thing. Hence (American) a published note, short statement, request, explanation, or the like (*Webster*). Phrases: *To give one cards*, to give one an advantage, to give points: Fr., *faire un bœuf*;

on the cards, within the range of probability, liable to turn up: Dickens popularised the expression (1749); *to pack* (*stock*, or *put up*) *the cards*, to prepare cards for cheating purposes; *to speak by the card*, to speak with precision, with the utmost accuracy (1569); *to face* (or *brag*) *it out with a card of ten*, to put on a bold front; *a cooling card*, anything that damps one's ardour, a wet blanket (q.v.); *a leading card*, an example, precedent; *to play one's best card*, to stake all, do one's best; *to throw* (or *fling*) *up one's cards*, to abandon a project; *to show one's cards*, to make a clean beast, full explanation, or to reveal the extent of one's resources; *to have* (or *go in*) *with good cards*, to have good grounds for expecting success; *to cast* (or *count*) *one's cards*, to take stock, reckon chances; *a house* (or *castle*) *of cards*, an unsecure position, scheme, etc.

Cardinal. 1. A red cloak: worn by ladies *circa* 1740 and later. 2. Mulled red wine (1861). 3. A shoeblack. Some London brigades wear red tunics: that stationed in the City is now better known as the City Reds. 4. A lobster: from its colour when cooked (Jules Janin once made a curious blunder and called the lobster *le cardinal de la mer*); whence *cardinal hash*, a lobster salad. 5. A new [1890] variety of red.

Cardinal's - blessing. A benediction carrying with it no further advantage (1720).

Care. *Not to care* or *be worth a fig, pin, rap, button, cent, straw, rush*, or *hang*, similes of indifference; to care not even so much as the value of a fig, a pin, or a straw: Fr., *s'en battre l'œil*: see Worth (1590). *I don't care if I do*, a street phrase of no particular meaning; also a form of accepting an invitation to drink: Will you peg? I don't care if I do.

Careaway. An exclamation of merriment or recklessness. Care begone! Away with care! Hence, a reckless fellow, roisterer, anything that drives away care (with a pun on caraway) (1440).

Care-grinder. A treadmill, also vertical care-grinder (q.v.): see Wheel of life.

Cargo (Winchester). A hamper from home (1840); the word is still in use.

Carler. A clerk: see Quill-driver.

Carlicues. See Curlycues.

Carney (or **Carny**). Seductive flattery, language covering a design; as verb, to wheedle, coax, insinuate oneself, act in a cajoling manner; hence *carneying*, wheedling, coaxing, insinuating.

Carnish. Meat. [Ital., *carne* flesh: through the Lingua Franca.] Whence *carnish-ken*, a thieves' eating house, prog-shop.

Caroon. A five-shilling piece: see Rhino. English synonyms: bull (or bull's eye), cartwheel, coachwheel (or simply wheel), tusheroon, dollar, thick 'un (also a sovereign), case, caser, decus.

Carpet. To reprimand, call over the coals, give a wigging (or ear-wigging), etc.: also *to walk the carpet* (1823). As adj., generic for luxury and effeminacy: e.g. carpet consideration, friend, gentry, toy, poet, soldier, knight (q.v.), etc. *To bring on the carpet*, to bring up or forward.

Carpet-bagger. A political adventurer. [After the Civil War, numbers of Northerners went south; they were looked upon with suspicion. Originally a wild-cat banker (q.v.)].

Carpet-bag Recruit. A recruit of better than ordinary standing, i.e. one with more than he stands upright in.

Carpet - knight. A stay-at-home soldier, a shirker of practical work, a petticoat dangler: also in such combinations as carpet - captain, carpet-squire; all in contempt.

Carpet-swab. A carpet-bag (1837).

Carrier. A rogue employed to look out, and watch upon the roads, at inns, etc., in order to carry information to their respective gangs, of a booty in prospect (*B. E.*).

Carrier-pigeon. 1. A cheat, spec. a lottery office swindler (1781). [The sharper attended the drawing of a lottery in the Guildhall, and as soon as a number or two are drawn, wrote them on a card; a confederate, ready mounted, rode full speed to some distant insurance office, where another of the gang, commonly a decent-looking woman, insured for a considerable sum, thus biting the biter (*Grose*).] 2. A peripatetic commission agent, a kind of tout.

Carrion. The human body; formerly a corpse.

Carrion-case. A shirt, chemise: carrion, the human body: see Flesh-bag.

Carrion Hunter. An undertaker (1785).

Carrots. In pl., red hair: also a proper name (1685). *Take a carrot!* A contemptuous retort: originally obscene.

Carry. *To carry coals,* to put up with insults, endure an affront or injury (1593); *to carry boodle,* see Boodle; *to carry real estate,* to neglect the finger nails; *to carry out one's bat,* see Bat; *to carry corn,* to bear success well and equably: of a man who breaks down under a sudden access of wealth, or who becomes affected and intolerant, it is said, He doesn't carry corn well; *to carry on,* to make oneself conspicuous by a certain line of behaviour, conduct oneself wildly or recklessly, joke or frolic; also, in a special sense, open to flirt openly: whence *carryings on,* frolicsome or questionable proceedings, a course of conduct that attracts attention (1663); *carry me out and bury me decently,* a dovetail to an incredible story, or something displeasing; varied by Let me die! Good-night! etc., as also by Carry me home! Carry me upstairs! Carry me out and leave me in the gutter! (a writer in *Notes and Queries* (2 S., iii. 387) states it to have been in use *circa* 1780); *to carry the stick*: see Trip up.

Carry-castle. An elephant (1598).

Carsey. A house, den, or crib. [Lingua Franca *casa,* a house.]

Cart. To defeat: in a match, fight, examination, race, etc.: e.g. *we carted them home,* we gave them an awful licking. *In the cart* (or *carted*), an employee is said to put an owner in the cart, when, by trick or fraud, his horse is prevented from winning: also *in the box*; 2. in the know, in the hunt; 3. the lowest scorer at any point is said to be in the cart; sometimes on the tailboard; *to walk the cart,* to walk over a racecourse; *to cart off* (*out* or *away*), to remove; *to set* (or *put*) *the cart before the horse,* to reverse matters (1520); *to be left out of the cart's tail,* to suffer loss or injury through carelessness (1541); *to keep cart on wheels,* to peg away, keep things going.

Cart-grease. Butter, spec. bad butter. English synonyms: cow-grease, Thames mud, cow-oil, spread, scrape, smear, ointment, sluter.

Carts. A pair of shoes: see Trotter-cases.

Cart-wheel. 1. A five-shilling piece, also coach-wheel, and wheel: see Rhino. 2. A broad hint. 3. A continuous series of somersaults in which the hands and feet alternately touch the ground, the appearance produced being similar to the spokes of a cart wheel in motion; also Catharine wheel (1851).

Carver and Gilder. A match-maker: cf. fingersmith, a midwife.

Casa. See Case.

Cascade. 1. Tasmania beer: because manufactured from 'cascade' water: cf. Artesian. 2. A trundling gymnastic performance in pantomime. As verb, to vomit (1771).

Case. 1. A certainty in fact, an accentuated or abnormal instance in character. When two persons fall in love, or are engaged to marry, it is said to be a case with them. An eccentric person is a case. 2. A bad five-shilling piece. *Half a case,* a bad half-crown, cf. Caser. 3. A house, respectable or otherwise: spec. a brothel, and, by transference, a water-closet (1678). 4. (Westminster School). The discussion by Seniors and Upper Election preceding a tanning (q.v.), and the tanning itself. *A case of crabs,* a failure; *a case of pickles,* an incident, a bad breakdown, a break up; *a case of stump,* impecuniosity.

Caseine. A variant of The cheese (q.v.): cf. Cassan. (1856).

Caser. Five shillings: see Case and Caroon. (1879).

Case-vrow. A dress-lodger (q.v.).

Casey. Cheese: see Cassan.

Cash. *Equal to cash,* of unquestionable merit; *to cash a prescription,* to get a prescription made up; *cash* or *pass in one's checks,* to die (in poker, counters or checks, purchased at certain fixed rates, are equivalent to coin); *to cash up,* to liquidate a debt.

Cashels. Great Southern and Western of Ireland Railway Stock. [Said to be derived from the fact that the line originally had no station at Cashel.]

Cask. A brougham, pill-box (q.v.): Fr., *bagniole.*

Cass. See Cassan.

Cassan. Cheese; also cass, casson,

cassam, cassom, and casey. The oldest form is cassan (1567). English synonyms: caz, sweaty-toe, choke-dog.

Cast. See Accounts, Sheep's Eyes.

Castell. To see, look (1610).

Caster. 1. A cloak (1567). 2. A cast-off (1859).

Castieu's Hotel. Melbourne gaol: so called from Mr. J. B. Castieu: see Cage.

Castle-rag. A fourpenny piece, flag: see Joey.

Cast-off. 1. In pl., landsmen's clothes: see Togs. 2. A discarded mistress: see Cast.

Castor. A hat: Latin, *castor*, a beaver: hats were formerly made of beaver's fur: see Golgotha. (1640).

Cat. 1. A prostitute (1401). 2. A shortened form of Cat-o'-nine-tails (q.v.) (1788). 3. A lady's muff. 4. A quart pot: pint pots are Kittens: *cat and kitten sneaking*, stealing pewter pots (1851). 5. See Tame cat. 6. A fanciful monster infesting lodging houses, which devours with equal readiness cold meat and coals, spirits and paraffin, etc., etc. (1827). *Flying cat*, an owl (1690). *To jerk, shoot, or whip the cat* (or *to cat*), to vomit (1609). *To whip the cat* (or *to draw through the water with a cat*). 1. To indulge in practical jokes (1614): hence *cat-whipping* or *whipping the cat*: A trick often practised on ignorant country fellows, vain of their strength; by laying a wager with them that they may be pulled through a pond by a cat; the bet being made, a rope is fixed round the waist of the party to be catted, and the end thrown across the pond, to which the cat is also fastened by a pack-thread, and three or four sturdy fellows are appointed to lead and whip the cat; these, on a given signal, seize the end of the cord, and pretending to whip the cat, haul the astonished booby through the water (*Grose*) 2. To work at private houses. Phrases: *To see how the cat will jump*, to watch events and act accordingly; also (American) to sit on the fence (1827); *you kill my cat and I'll kill your dog.* Ca' me, ca' thee, an exchange in the matter of scratching backs: Fr., *passez moi la casse, et je t'envarrai la senne*; *to let the cat out of the bag*, to reveal a secret, to put one's foot in it (this and the kindred phrase, To buy a pig in a poke, are said to originate in the bumpkin's trick of substituting a cat for a young pig and bringing it to market in a bag: if the customer were wary the cat was let out of the bag, and there was no deal); *who ate* or *stole the cat?* a gentleman whose larder was frequently broken by bargees, had a cat cooked and placed as a decoy: it was taken and eaten, and became a standing jest against the pilferers; *to lead a cat and dog life*, to quarrel night and day; *to turn cat in the pan*, to 'rat,' to reverse one's position through self-interest, to play the turncoat (the derivation is absolutely unknown: the one generally received — that cat is a corruption of cate or cake, is historically untenable) (1559); *to feel as though a cat had kittened in one's mouth*, to have a mouth, after drunkenness. Many other phrases and proverbial sayings will occur to mind: *A cat may look at a king*, a retort on impertinent or ill-placed interference, there are certain things which an inferior may do in presence of a superior; *care killed the cat*, the strongest will ultimately break down, even though one had, like the proverbial cat, nine lives; *enough to make a cat speak* (or *laugh*), of something very extraordinary or facetious (frequently of very good drink); *to fight like Kilkenny cats*, to engage in a mutually destructive struggle; *to bell the cat*: see Bell; *to grin like a Cheshire cat.* Also proverbial sayings, Wisdom is great if the cat never touched milk; The cat winks when her eye is out; The cat likes (or will eat) fish, but she will not wet her feet to catch them; In the dark (or when the candle is out) all cats are grey; Cats are not to be caught without mittens; The cat will after kind; Evil will abide as long as a cat is tied to a pudding; As like as a cat and a cart wheel; Not room enough to swing a cat; A cat and mouse game.

Catabaptist. A denier of the orthodox doctrine of baptism: 16th and 17th cent. [Coined by Gregory Nazianzen.]

Catamarin. A vixenish old woman a cross-grained person of either sex (1833).

Catamount (Catamountain, or Cat o' Mountain). A shrew. [Cf. Catamarin and Beaumont and Fletcher's use of the word for a wild man from the mountains, a transferred sense of catamount, a leopard or panther.]

Cat and Mouse. A house.

Catastrophe. The tail or latter end: cf. the Falstaffian I'll tickle your catastrophe.

Catawampous (Catawamptiously). With avidity, fiercely, eagerly, or violently destructive (1843). As subs. pl., vermin, especially those that sting and bite.

Catch. A man or woman matrimonially desirable; formerly a prize or booty (1593). In combination anything that catches: e.g. catch-all, catch-bit, catch-cloak, catch-coin, catch-credit, catch-fish, catch-fool, catch-penny (guinea, shilling, etc.) and so forth. *To catch* (or *cut*) *a crab.* (1) To turn the blade of the oar, or feather, under water at the end of the stroke, and thus be unable to recover; (2) to lose control of the oar at the middle of the stroke by digging too deeply; or (3) to miss the water altogether,—also to capture a cancer, and (American) to catch a lobster; *to catch a tartar,* to unexpectedly meet with one's superior, to fall into one's own trap, having a design upon another, to be caught oneself: also to catch on a snag (q.v.) (1682); *catch that catch may* (*catch as catch can,* etc.), to help oneself, each as he can; *catch me!* (or *catch me at it!*), an emphatic denial (1780); *to catch it,* to get a thrashing or scolding (1835); *to catch on,* to understand, grasp, apprehend, quickly seize an opportunity; *to catch the eye,* to arrest attention; *to catch fire,* to become inflamed with passion, inspired with zeal, etc.; *to catch on a snag,* to catch a tartar (q.v.), meet with one's superior; *to catch on the hop,* to catch or have on the hip, as Gratiano catches Shylock: see Hop; *to catch the wind of the world,* to quickly understand the meaning of what is said. See Twig.

Catch-'em-alive (or **alivo**). 1. A fly-paper. 2. A tooth comb.

Catch-fart. A footman, page-boy.

Catch-pole. A warrant-officer, bum-bailiff: formerly in respectable use, but employed contemptuously from the sixteenth century (1377).

Catchy. Vulgarly or cheaply attractive, of a quality to take the eye or ear, easily caught and remembered (as a tune) (1831).

Caterpillar. A soldier: see Mud-crusher.

Caterwaul. To make a noise like cats at rutting time, woo, make love (1899).

Catever. A queer or singular affair, anything poor or bad. [Lingua Franca, and Ital., *cattivo,* bad.]

Catfish death. Suicide by drowning.

Catgut-scraper. A fiddler: also scraper or teaser of the catgut, rosin-the-bow (1633).

Cat-harping fashion. Drinking cross ways, and not as usual over the left thumb (*Grose*).

Cat-head. In pl., the paps: see Dairy.

Cathedral (Winchester). A high hat: see Golgotha; as adj., old-fashioned, antique (1690). [Because only worn when going to the Cathedral.]

Catharine Puritan. A member of St. Catharine's Hall, Cambridge. [A pun on Catharine and Καθαίρειν, to purify.] Also Doves (q.v.)

Catherine Hayes. A liquor consisting of claret, sugar, and nutmeg (1856). [The derivation may presumably be traced to the immense popularity of the Irish singer at the antipodes.]

Cat's. St. Catharine's Hall: whence *Cat's men,* members of St. Catharine's Hall.

Catherine Wheel. See **Cartwheel.**

Cat-lap. Thin potations of any sort, especially tea (1785).

Cat-market. A number of people all talking at once: e.g. You make a row like a cat-market, a general caterwauling.

Cat-match. When a rook or cully is engaged amongst bad bowlers (*Grose*).

Catoller (or **Catolla**). A noisy, prating fellow: a foolish betting man (*Egan*).

Cat-o'-nine-tails (or **cat**). A nine-lashed scourge still occasionally used on criminals, but until 1881 the authorised means of punishment in the British army and navy. In prison parlance the cat-o'-nine-tails is Number one, or the Nine-tailed bruiser (q.v.), the birch being Number two (q.v.) (1665).

Cat-party (Bitch-party). A gathering of women.

Cats. Atlantic Seconds: for telegraphic purposes.

Cats and Dogs. *To rain cats and dogs, and pitchforks and shovels,* to rain heavily (1738).

Cat's-foot. *To live under the cat's foot,* to be under petticoat government, hen-pecked: cf. Apron-string.

Cat's-head (Winchester). The end of a shoulder of mutton.

Catskin-earls. The three senior earls in the House of Lords, viz. the Earls of Shrewsbury, Derby, and Huntingdon, the only three earldoms before the seventeenth century now existing, save those that (like Arundel, Rutland, etc.), are merged in higher titles, and the anomalous earldom of Devon (1553), resuscitated in 1831.

Cat's-meat. The lungs.

Cat's-paw (or Cat's-foot). A dupe, tool. [A reference to the fable (*Bertrand et Raton*) of a monkey using the paw of a cat, dog, or fox, to pull roasted chestnuts off the fire, current in the sixteenth century, but varying considerably in details.] (1657).

Cat-sticks. Thin legs (1785).

Cat's-water. Gin.

Cattie. An imperfect or smutty look on a printed sheet, caused by an oily or unclean roller.

Cattle. A term of contempt: applied to human beings: e.g. queer cattle, kittle-cattle (1577). Cattle is often used of horses.

Cattle-bug. See Bug.

Caudge-pawed. Left-handed (*Grose*).

Caught. *Caught on the fly,* caught in the act, on the hop, or hip.

Cauliflower. 1. A clerical wig supposed to resemble a cauliflower; modish in the time of Queen Anne. 2. The foaming head of a tankard of beer. In Fr., *linge* or *faux-col*. 3. In pl. the Forty-seventh Regiment of Foot: from its white facings.

Caulk. 1. Sleep; as verb, to sleep: also subs., caulking (1836). 2. To cease; shut up; i.e. stop one's talk, or leave off talking.

Caulker. 1. A dram, stiff glass of grog: generally a finishing bumper. When this happens to be sherry and follows the drinking of red wines, it is called a whitewash (q.v.) (1808). 2. A lie, anything surprising or incredible: see Whopper.

Caution. Anything out of the common, wonderful, staggering, to be avoided, that causes surprise, wonder, fear. At Oxford, in 1865, a guy or cure (1835). Whence *cautionary,* that which is a caution.

Cavaulting-school. A house of ill-fame.

Cave (or **Cave in**). To give way when opposition can no longer be maintained, break up, turn up. English synonyms: to knuckle under, knock under, give in, sing small, turn it up, chuck it up, jack up, climb down (q.v.), throw up the sponge, chuck it, go down, go out, cut it, cut the rope (pugilistic), etc. (1877). *Cave!* (Eton). Beware! a byword among boys out of bounds when a master is in sight.

Caviare. Obnoxious matter blacked out by the Russian press censor. Every foreign periodical entering Russia is examined for objectionable references or irreligious matter, the removal whereof is accomplished in two ways. If the items or articles are bulky, they are torn or cut out bodily. If they are brief, they are blacked out by means of a rectangular stamp about as wide as an ordinary newspaper column, and cross-hatched in such a way that, when inked and dabbed upon the paper, it makes a close network of white lines and black diamonds. The peculiar mottled or grained look of a page thus treated has suggested the attributive caviare: a memory of the look of the black salted caviare spread upon a slice of bread and butter. As verb, to black out.

Cavort. To prance, frisk, run or ride in a heedless or purposeless manner. [Lingua Franca, *cavolta,* prancing on horseback.] (1848).

Cawbawn. See Cobbon.

Caw-handed (or **Caw-pawed**). Awkward, not dexterous, ready or nimble (*Grose*).

Caxton. A wig. [A corruption of caxon.]

Cayuse. A nickname given by Mormon girls to young Latter Day Saints: the Yahoos of the Gentiles. [The cayuse is properly the common Indian pony.]

Caz. Cheese: see Cassan. (1812).

Cedar (Eton). 1. A pair-oared boat, inrigged, without canvas, and very crank. [From the material.] 2. A pencil.

Celestial-poultry. Angels.

Celestial. 1. In pl., The Ninety-seventh Regiment of Foot. 2. A turn-up or pug nose: see Conk. 3. A Chinaman. [The Chinese Empire is spoken of as the Celestial Empire.]

Cellier. An out-and-out, unmitigated lie: an echo of the Meal-tub plot (1682). Cf. Burke, Boycott, Bishop, and Salisbury.

Cellar-flap. A step or dance performed within the compass of (say) a cellar-flap: the Whitechapel artist achieves as many changes of step as possible without shifting his ground: his action being restricted to the feet and legs: also to cut capers on a trencher: to double-shuffle.

Cent. See Worth.

Cent-per-cent. A usurer (*Grose*).

Centurion. A batsman scoring a hundred runs. [From Centurion, the commander of a 'century,' in the Roman Army.]

Century. A hundred pounds; or at cricket, etc., a score of a hundred. [Originally a division of the Roman Army numbering 100 men. In English it was and is in common use to signify a group of a hundred.]

Cert. A certainty: also a dead (or moral) certainty, a dead 'un, and a moral (1859).

Certainty. An infant of the female sex: see Uncertainties.

Chafe. To thrash soundly, warm (1693).

Chaff. 1. Ironical or sarcastic banter, fooling, humbug, ridicule. As verb, to banter, jest, gammon, or quiz (1821). *Chaffy*, full of banter. 2. (Christ's Hospital). A small article or plaything, e.g. a pocket chaff; as adj. (Christ's Hospital), pleasant, glad: sometimes chaffy. As intj. (Christ's Hospital), an exclamation signifying joy or pleasure. Also phrases and proverbs: *neither corn nor chaff*, nondescript, neither one thing nor another (1835); *To sell corn and eat chaff*, to deny oneself, play the miser (1579); *A grain of wheat in a bushel of chaff*, poverty of result, much cry and little wool.

Chaff-cutter. A back-biter, slanderer.

Chaffer. 1. A quizzer, banterer (q.v.). 2. The mouth, the tongue (1821); *to moisten one's chaffer*, to drink: see Lush.

Chaffing-crib. The place where a man receives his intimates; a den, snuggery, diggings (1821).

Chained (or Chain) Lightning. Whisky of the vilest description: warranted to kill at forty rods: also forty-rod lightning.

Chain-gang. Jewellers; watch-chain makers: Fr., *boguiste* and *chainiste*.

Chair. *To put in the chair*, to commit to prison: of drivers neglecting to pay hire for their cabs.

Chairmarking. Inserting the date in a cab-driver's licence in words instead of figures: or, endorsing it in an unusually bold, heavy hand: a hint to possible employers that the holder is undesirable. In other trades it is understood that an unexceptionable character, with the adjectives carefully underlined, is to be read as implying just the opposite of what it appears to say.

Chaldese. To trick, cheat, take in (1684).

Chalk. 1. A score, reckoning; whence, *by chalks*, *many chalks*, *long chalks*, etc., i.e. degrees or marks; also credit, tick (1529). 2. A scratch or scar (1846). As verb, (1) To score up, tick off. (2) To make one stand treat, or pay his footing; an old hand succeeds in chalking the shoes of a green hand, the latter has to stand drinks all round. (3) To strike: cf. chalkers, sense 1 (1822). Phrases: *To chalk up* (or *chalk it up*), to credit, take credit, put to one's account (1597); *to beat by long* (or *many*) *chalks*, to beat thoroughly, show appreciable superiority (1857); *to walk* (or *stump one's chalks*), to move or run away, be off; *to be able to walk a chalk*, to be sober (the ordeal on board ship of trying men suspected of drunkenness is to make them walk along a line chalked on the deck, without deviating to right or left); *making chalks*, a term connected with the punishment of boys on board ship, and in the Royal Naval School: two chalk lines are drawn wide apart on the deck or floor, and a boy to be punished places a foot on each of these lines, and stoops, thereby presenting a convenient section of his person to the boatswain or master; *to chalk the lamp-post,* to bribe: see grease the palm (1857). Other expressions connected with chalk are, *to know chalk from cheese*; *to chalk out,* etc.

Chalker. 1. In pl., Men of wit in Ireland, who in the night amuse themselves with cutting inoffensive passengers across the face with a knife. They are somewhat like those facetious gentlemen, some time ago known in England by the title of sweaters and mohocks (*Grose*). 2. A milkman.

Chalk-farm. The arm. English synonyms: bender, hoop-stick, fin, daddle.

Chalk-head. One with a good head for figures: spec. a waiter (1856).

Cham (or Chammy). Champagne, (q.v.), boy.

Chamber of Horrors. 1. The Peeresses' Gallery in the House of Lords: cf. Cage, sense 4. 2. In pl., sausages.

Chance. *To have an eye to the main chance,* to keep in view that which will advantage (1609). *To chance the ducks,* to risk what one may, take every chance: also, *to chance the arm.*

Chancer. A liar; also an incompetent workman: i.e. one who chances what he cannot do.

Changery. *In chancery,* in pugilism, the head under the left arm of an opponent so that he can pound away at it with his right; also fig., in a parlous case, an awkward fix: Fr., *chancellerie* and *coup de chancellerie,* almost literal translations (1819).

Chaney-eyed. One-eyed: cf. squinny-eyed.

Change. *To give change,* to pay out, give one his deserts; whence, *to take one's change out of,* to get even with, give tit for tat: see infra; *to have all one's change about one,* to be clever, quick-witted, *compos mentis,* with twelve pence to the shilling about one; *to put the change on,* to deceive mislead (1667); *to ring the changes,* to change better for worse; also to pass counterfeit money, to pitch the snide (q.v.): see Ring (1661); *to take the change out of* [a person or thing], to be revenged, take an equivalent, get *quid pro quo*: e.g. *Take your change out of that!* with a blow or other rejoinder: cf. Put that in your pipe and smoke it! (1829); *quick change artiste,* a performer, male or female, who sings one song in one costume, retires for a few seconds and returns to sing another in another guise, and so on; *to change one's note* (or *tune*), to pass from laughter to tears, from arrogance to humility, to alter one's mode of speech, behaviour, etc.: see Breath. (1578).

Change-bags (Eton). Grey flannel trousers for cricket, and knickerbockers for football.

Chant (or Chaunt). 1. A song; *to throw off a rum chaunt,* to sing a good song (1882). 2. A cipher, initials, or mark of any kind, on a piece of plate, linen, or other article; anything so marked is said to be chanted; also an advertisement in a newspaper or handbill, etc. (1812). As verb, (1) to talk, sing praise, cry, crack up: Fr., *pousser la goualante*: street patterers and vendors chant their songs and wares, oftentimes to an extent not warranted by their quality. (2) To sell a horse by fraudulent representation: Fr., *enrosser* (1816). Hence *chanter* (generally *horse-chanter,* (1) a fraudulent horse-dealer; and (2) a street patterer: commonly spelt chaunter (q.v.); *chanting,* selling unsound or vicious horses by a trick.

Chantey (or Chanty). A song sung by sailors at their work. The music is to a certain extent traditional, the words — which are commonly unfit for ears polite — are traditional likewise. The words and music are divided into two parts—the chanty proper, which is delivered by a single voice, with or without a fiddle *obligato,* and the refrain and chorus, which are sung with much straining and tugging, and with peculiar breaks and strange and melancholy stresses, by a number of men engaged in the actual performance of some piece of bodily labour.

Chantie. A chamber-pot: see It.

Chapel (or Chapel of ease). A water-closet: see Mrs. Jones.

Chapel of little ease. The police cells: see Little ease.

Chapped. Parched, dry, thirsty (1673).

Chappie (or Chappy). The latest variety (1890) of a man about town, a dandy: a term of intimacy.

Character. A man or woman exhibiting some prominent (and usually contemptible) trait, an eccentric, a case (q.v.): generally with low, queer, comic, etc. (1773).

Charactered. Burnt in the hand, lettered (q.v.) (1785).

Charing-Cross. A horse; see Prad.

Chariot. An omnibus: in the sixteenth century a vehicle of any kind, and in the eighteenth a light four-wheeled carriage.

Chariot-buzzing. Picking pockets in an omnibus.

Charity. *Cold as charity*, lacking in feeling, perfunctory; *charity begins at home*, ties of family, friendship, etc., come first.

Charley (or **Charlie**). 1. A night-watchman. A popular name, prior to the introduction by Sir R. Peel, in 1829, of the present police force; since fallen into desuetude. The Charlies were generally old men whose chief duty was crying the hour on their rounds. Boxing a Charley was a favourite amusement with young bucks and bloods: when they found a night-watchman asleep in his box, they would overturn it, leaving the occupant to escape as best he might. Charles I. reorganised the watch system of the metropolis in 1640. 2. A small pointed beard, fashionable in the time of Charles I.: cf. Imperial, Goatee. 3. A fox. 4. A watch. 5. (tailors') The nap on glossy-surfaced cloth, also a round-shouldered figure.

Charley Bates' farm (or **garden**). See Bates' farm.

Charley-Lancaster. A handkerchief.

Charley-pitcher. A sharper working the thimble-rig, three-card trick, prick the garter, etc.

Charley-Prescot. A waistcoat.

Charley-wag. *To play the Charley-wag*, to absent oneself from school without leave, play truant; figuratively to disappear: Fr., *tailler* (or *caler*) *l'ecole*.

Charlies. 1. The paps: see Dairy. 2. (Winchester: obsolete). Thick gloves made of twine. [Introduced by a Mr. Charles Griffith.]

Charm. 1. A picklock (1785). 2. In pl., the paps: Fr., *les appas*: once in literary use, but now impossible except as slang. 3. In pl., generic for money: see Rhino.

Charter. *To charter the bar* (or *grocery*). To buy all the liquor in stock and stand drinks round as long as it lasts: this freak was not infrequent in the West. In Australia a similar expression is to shout oneself hoarse (q.v.).

Chasing. Exceeding a given average standard of production.

Chasse. To dismiss: Fr., *chasser* (1847).

Chat. 1. A house. 2. The truth, real state of a case, proper words to use, correct card (1819). 3. Gabble, chatter, impudence; e.g. None of your chat. As verb, to hang: see Chates.

Chates. 1. The gallows: also Chattes and Chats (1567): see Nubbing-cheat. 2. In pl., lice. English synonyms: active citizens, crabs, crumbs, friends in need, back friends, grey backs, black cattle, Scots Greys, gentleman's companions, creepers, gold-backed 'uns, German ducks, dicky-birds, familiars, saddle-backs, Yorkshire Greys.

Chat-hole. A hole in a wall, made to carry on conversation (prison).

Chats. 1. See Chates. 2. Seals, 3. London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Stock.

Chatterbox. An incessant talker; contemptuously of adults and playfully of children. Also chatter-basket, chatter-bones, chatter-cart, chatter-bladder, chatter-bag, chatter-pie, etc. *Chatter-broth* (or *water*), tea, scandal broth (q.v.). *Chitter-chatter* (or *Chatter-chitter*), small talk, gossip. *Chatter-house*, a resort for women (1611).

Chatterer. A blow upon the mouth, or a blow that tells (1827).

Chatterers. The teeth: see Grinders.

Chattery. Cotton or linen goods (1821).

Chatty. A filthy man: see Chat. As adj., filthy, lousy.

Chatty-feeder. A spoon.

Chaunt. See Chant. *To chaunt the play*, to explain the tricks and manœuvres of thieves.

Chaunter. 1. A street ballad singer, reciter of dying speeches, etc. Rarely heard now except in the poorest neighbourhoods. The practice is peculiar. One man gets as far as he can, and when his voice cracks a companion takes things up. 2. See Chanter, sense 1.

Chaunter-cove. A reporter.

Chaunter-cull. A writer of ballads and street literature for the use of chaunters (q.v.). They haunted certain well-known public houses in London and Birmingham, and were open to write ballads to order on any subject, the rate of remuneration varying from half-a-crown to seven-and-sixpence. The chaunter having practically disappeared, his poet has gone with him (1781).

Chaunter upon the Leer. An advertiser.

Chauvering - donna (or - moll). A prostitute: see Tart.

Chaw. 1. A countryman, yokel, bumpkin. In common use at public schools (1856). 2. A mouthful, gobbet, what can be crammed in the mouth at once, e.g. a quid of tobacco, a dram of spirits, etc.: as verb, to eat, chew noisily, and roughly bite: once literary, now specifically to chew tobacco (1749). 3. A trick, device, sell; also to deceive. Phrases: *To chaw over*, to create ridicule by repeating one's words; *to chaw up*, to get the better of, demolish, do for, smash or finish; *chawed up*, utterly done for (1843); *to chaw up one's words*, to retract an assertion, to eat one's words.

Chawbacon. A countryman, a bumpkin (q.v.). Other nicknames are bacon-slicer, clod-hopper, barn-door savage, clod-pole, cart-horse, Johnny, cabbage-gelder, turnip-sucker, joskin, jolterhead, yokel, clod-crusher, etc. (1811).

Cheap. *On the cheap*, at a low rate [of money], economically, keeping up a showy appearance on small means; *cheap and nasty*, of articles pleasing to the eye, but shoddy in fact: cf. Cheap and nasty, like Short's in the Strand, a proverb applied to the deceased founder of cheap dinners, now a well-known wine-bar; *to feel cheap*, to have a mouth on, suffering from a night's debauch; *dirt cheap* or *dog chaep*, inexpensive, as cheap as may be: dog cheap is the earliest form in which this colloquialism appears in English literature (1577), dirt cheap not being found earlier than 1837.

Cheapside. *He came home by way of Cheapside*, i.e. he gave little or nothing for it, he got it cheap.

Cheat. Generic for a thing, spec. the gallows; also the Nubbing, Topping, or Treyning-cheat. The word is variously spelt—chet, chete, cheate, cheit, chate, cheat. The following combinations illustrate its use:—*Belly-chete*, an apron; *bleting-chete*, a sheep or calf; *cackling-chete*, a fowl; *crashing-cheats*, the teeth; *grunting-chete*, a pig; *hearing-chetes*, the ears; *low'ing-chete*, a cow; *lullaby-chete*, an infant; *mofling-chete*, a napkin; *nubbing-cheat*, the gallows; *prattling-chete*, the tongue; *quacking-chete*, a duck: *smelling-chete*, the nose; *topping-cheat*, the gallows; *treyning-cheat*, the gallows; *trundling-cheat*, a cart or coach—all of which see (1567).

Cheats. Sham cuffs or wristbands, half sleeves: cf. Dicky and Sham (1688).

Checks. Generic for money, cash [A poker term]. *To pass* (or *hand*) *in one's checks*, to die: see Hop the twig.

Cheek. 1. Insolence, jaw; e.g. None of your cheek, None of your jaw. Equivalents are lip, chat, imperance, mouth, chin, chirrup, and nine shillings (nonchalance) (1840). 2. Audacity, confidence, impudence, brass, face. Formerly brow was used in the same sense (1642). Also as verb in both senses. *To one's own cheek*, to one's own share, all to oneself (1841); *to cheek up*, to answer saucily.

Cheek - ache. *To have the cheek-ache*, to blush, to be abashed.

Cheekiness. Impudence, effrontery, cool audacity (1847).

Cheekish (or Cheeky). Audacious, impudent, saucy.

Cheeks. 1. The posteriors. 2. An accomplice (1857).

Cheeks and Ears. A kind of head-dress (1600).

Cheeks the Marine. Mr. Nobody: popularised by Captain Marryat. Also a sarcastic rejoinder to a foolish or incredible story, Tell that to Cheeks the marine (1833).

Cheer. *To change cheer*, to exhibit emotion, change countenance; *to make a cheer*, to assume a look of anger, fear, shame, etc.; *what cheer?* how are you? *with good cheer*, readily, gladly; *to be of good cheer*, to be in good fettle, stout of heart, courageous; *the fewer the better cheer*, the fewer there are, the more there is for each to eat.

Cheese. 1. *The cheese*, anything first-rate or highly becoming; the expression runs up and down the whole gamut of cheese nomenclature, from the Stilton, Double Gloster, to the pure Limburger (1835). 2. An adept, one who takes the shine out of another: at Cambridge an overdressed dandy is a howling cheese. *Hard cheese*, what is barely endurable, hard lines, bad luck; *tip-cheese*, probably Tip-cat (q.v.); *cheese it!* leave off! have done! be off! (1811). *To make cheeses* (Fr., *faire des fromages*), a schoolgirl's amusement: turning rapidly round and round, the figure-maker suddenly sinks to the floor, causing the petticoats to inflate somewhat in the form of a cheese: also a deep curtsey (1857). See Bread, Chalk, Moon.

Cheese-box. A Confederate nickname for a vessel of the Monitor type (1860-65): cf. Tinclad.

Cheese-cutter. 1. A prominent, aquiline nose: see Conk. 2. A large, square peak to a cap: Fr., *Zouave abatjour*. 3. In pl., bandy-legs: see Drumsticks.

Cheese-knife. A sword: also Cheese-toaster.

Cheesemongers. The First Life-guards. [Bestowed, it is said, on account of veterans declining to serve when the corps was remodelled in 1788, on the ground that the ranks were no longer composed of gentlemen, but of cheesemongers.] Also The cheeses.

Cheeser. An eructation.

Cheeses. See Cheesemongers.

Cheese-toaster. A sword. English synonyms: Toasting-fork, toasting iron, sharp, knitting-needle, iron, cheese-knife, tool, poker (1785).

Cheesy. Fine, showy: the reverse of dusty (q.v.) (1858).

Chemiloon. Chemise and drawers in one, a combination (q.v.).

Chepemens. Cheapside Market (1610).

Cheque. *To have seen the cheque*, to know positively, be possessed of exact knowledge concerning a matter.

Cherrilet. A nipple (1599).

Cherry. A young girl: cf. cherry ripe and rosebud.

Cherry-breeches. See Cherubims.

Cherry-coloured. Either red or black; in allusion to a cheating trick at cards. [When cards are being dealt, a knowing one offers to bet that he will tell the colour of the turn-up card. Done, says Mr. Green. The sum being named, Mr. Sharp affirms that it will be cherry-colour; and as cherries are either black or red, he wins (*Grose*). *Cherry-coloured cat*, one either black or white in colour (1785).

Cherry-merry. 1. Convivial, slightly inebriated: see Screwed (1602). 2. A present of money. *Cherry-merry-bamboo*, a beating.

Cherry-pickers. See Cherubims.

Cherry-pie. A girl.

Cherry-ripe. 1. A woman: also cherry-pipe. 2. A Redbreast (q.v.), Bow Street runner. A scarlet waistcoat formed part of the uniform. 3. A footman in red plush. 4. A pipe.

Cherubims (*vulgo*, **Cherry-bums**). 1. The Eleventh Hussars. [From the crimson overalls.] Also Cherry-breeches and Cherry-pickers. 2. Peevish children: an allusion to the *Te Deum*, To Thee cherubin and seraphin continually do cry. 3. Chorister boys. *To be in the cherubims*, to be in good humour, in the clouds, unsubstantial, fanciful (1542).

Cheshire-cat. *To grin like a Cheshire cat* [*chewing gravel, eating cheese*], to laugh broadly, all over one's face (1782).

Chest. *To chuck out one's chest*, to pull oneself together, stand firm, keep a stiff upper lip.

Chestnut. A stale joke or story, an old 'Joe,' something frequently said or done before.

Chete. See Cheat.

Chew. A small portion of tobacco, a quid. *To chew oneself*, to get angry; *to chew the cud*, to chew tobacco; also to think, to turn over in one's mind *to chew the rag* (or *fat*), to grumble.

Chewallop! Onomatopœia: representing, it is thought, the sound of an object falling heavily to the ground or into water: see Cachunk (1835).

Chewre. To steal.

Chic. Finish, elegance, spirit, dash style—any quality which marks a person or thing as superior. [Originally a French slang term of uncertain origin, Littré being inclined to trace it to *chicane*, tact or skill. The French *chic* originally signified subtlety, cunning, skill; and, among English painters, *to chic up a picture*, or *to do a thing from* *chic, to* work without models and out of one's own head] (1856). As adj., stylish, elegant, up to Dick.

Chickabiddy. A young girl: cf. *Chick-woman* (*Much Ado*, I. iii.).

Chickaleary-cove (or **bloke**). An artful member, a downy cove (q.v.).

Chicken. A pint pot: cf. hens and chickens, and cat and kittens (1851). *No chicken*, elderly (1720); *to count one's chickens before they are hatched*, to reckon beforehand upon a successful issue (the Latins said, Don't sing your song of triumph before you have won the victory —*ante victoriamcanere triumphum*) (1579).

Chicken - butcher. A poulterer; also (sporting), any one shooting immature game (1811).

Chicken-fixings. Properly a hash, stew, or fricassee of chicken, but the term is now applied to any fare out of the common; also to show of any kind: Fr., *gueulardise*: cf. common doings.

Chicken-flesh. Goose-flesh (q.v.).

Chicken-pecked. Governed by a child: cf. hen-pecked.

Chicken-thief. A petty thief.

Chi-ike (or **Chy-ack**). A street salute, a word of praise (1869). Also as verb, to salute or hail, and (tailors') to chaff unmercifully. *To give chi-ike with the chill off*, to scold.

Child. See This child. Also in proverbs and proverbial phrases, The burnt child dreads the fire (1400). The child unborn (a type of innocence. Children, drunkards, and fools cannot lie. Once an old man, twice a child. Many kiss the child for the nurse's sake.

Child-crowing. Croup.

Child-geared. Childish, silly.

Child - queller. A severe disciplinarian.

Children's-shoes. See Make.

Chill (or **take the chill off**). To warm. *With the chill off*, an expression of (1) dissent, (2) depreciation, or (3) disbelief: cf. over the left (q.v.).

Chime. To praise, extol, puff, canoodle (q.v.), especially with a view to personal advantage. *To chime in*, to agree, endorse, spec. to break into an argument with a note of approval: also *to chime in with* (1838).

Chimney. A great smoker: Fr., *locomotive*.

Chimney - chops. A negro: see Snowball.

Chimney-pot. The silk hat worn by men, and sometimes by women on horseback: beaver, bell-topper, etc., but see Golgotha: Fr., *cheminée* (1861).

Chimney - sweep. 1. A black draught: cf. custom - house officer. 2. A clergyman: *vice versa* sweep= clergyman.

Chin. A child. As verb, to talk, chatter: spec. to talk loudly, impudently, or abusively. *To hold up by the chin*, to support, encourage, save from disaster (1562); *of the first chin*, with sprouting beard; *up to the chin*, deeply engaged, involved, over head and ears.

Chinas. Eastern Extension Australasian and China Telegraph Shares.

Chin-chopper. A drive under the chin: see Dig.

Chinese - compliment. Seeming deference to others, one's mind being already made up.

Chink. Generic for money, ready cash: also chinkers, or jink: see Rhino (1557).

Chinker. In pl., handcuffs: see Chink.

Chin - music. Talk, chatter, oratory: also chin-wag: Fr., *casser un mot*. *Chinning*, talking, chatting; *chinny*, talkative: see Chin.

Chinqua soldi. Fivepence: Ital.

Chinse (Winchester). A chance.

Chip. 1. An item of news: spec. a local (q.v.). 2. A reporter who collects chips. 3. A sovereign: see Rhino. As verb, to understand: see Twig. *To chip in*, to contribute one's share in money or kind, join in an undertaking, interpose smartly; *not to care a chip*, to care naught, not even the value of a counter: see Cent, Fig, Rap, Straw, etc.; *brother chip*, brother smut, one of the same trade or profession; *chip of the same* (or *the same old*) *block*, a person reproducing certain familiar or striking characteristics; *chip in porridge, broth*, a thing of no moment, nonentity (1686). Also *Chip*, a man or thing: a bloke, cove, cheat (1628).

Chipper. Fit, active, ready to chip in.

Chippy, unwell, seedy: usually of over-indulgence in eating, drinking, etc.

Chips. 1. A carpenter (1785). 2. Counters used in games of chance: cf. checks. 3. Cards. 4. Money. 5. (Wellington College). A kind of grill: from its hardness. *To hand in one's chips*, to die.

Chirp. To talk: spec. to inform (thieves).

Chirper. 1. A singer. 2. A glass or tankard (1862). 3. The mouth: see Potato trap. 4. A stage door blackmailer: if money be refused them, they go into the auditorium and hoot, hiss, and groan at the performer.

Chirping-merry. Exhilarated with liquor (*Grose*).

Chirpy. Cheerful, likely (1837).

Chirrup, verb (music-hall). To cheer or applaud a public singer, speaker, etc., for a consideration: Fr., *daguer*. Hence *chirruper* and *chirruping*.

Chisel (Chizzle, or Chuzzle). To cheat, defraud, swindle (*Jamieson*) (1808). Hence, *chiselling*, cheating. *To go full chisel*, to go full speed, or full drive, show intense earnestness, use great force, go off brilliantly (1835).

Chit. 1. A letter (1785), corruption of a Hindoo word. 2. An order for drinks: in clubs, etc. 3. A girl: under age and undersized. 4. Food eaten in the hand: as a thumber (q.v.), a workman's lunch, and a child's piece (q.v.).

Chit-chat. Chatter, familiar conversation: cf. tittle-tattle, bibble-babble, etc. [*Johnson*: only used in ludicrous conversation.]

Chitterlings. Shirt frills: cf. Ger., *Gekröse*.

Chitty. An assistant tailor's cutter or trimmer.

Chitty-faced. Thin, weazened, baby-faced (1601).

Chiv. See Chive.

Chive (or Chiv). A knife. English synonyms: Arkansas toothpick (a bowie knife), cabbage-bleeder, whittle, gully, jockteleg (a clasp knife: a corruption of Jacques de Liége) snickersnee (nautical), cuttle, cuttle-bung, pig-sticker (1674). As verb, to stab, to knife (q.v.)

Chive-fencer. A street hawker of cutlery.

Chivey (or Chivvy). A shout, greeting, cheer: cf. Chi-ike. As verb, to guy (q.v.), chase round, hunt about, throw or pitch about (1831).

Chiving-lay. Cutting the braces of coaches behind, whereupon, the coachman quitting the box, an accomplice broke and robbed the boot. Also cutting through the back of the coach to snatch the large and costly wigs then fashionable (*Grose*).

Chivy (or Chevy). The face. As verb, to scold, bullyrag.

Choakee. See Chokey.

Chock. To strike a person under the chin.

Chocker. A man: generally old chocker, but not necessarily in contempt.

Chocolate. *To give chocolate without sugar*, to reprove (*Grose*).

Choke-dog. Cheese; especially hard cheese made in Devonshire.

Choke. *To choke off*, to get rid of, put a stop to, run contrary to. English synonyms, to shut off, shunt, fub off, rump, cold shoulder (1818).

Choker. 1. A cravat; spec. the large neckerchief once worn high round the neck; also white choker (q.v.), the neckgear peculiar to evening dress. English synonyms: neckinger, tie (now technical, but formerly slang), crumpler (1845). 2. An all-round collar: cf. all-rounder. 3. A garotter; see Wind-stopper. 4. Prison, lock up, quod: see Chokey. 5. The hangman's rope, squeezer, halter. *White-choker*, a parson.

Chokey (Choky, Chokee, or Chocker). 1. A prison. *Queen's* (or *King's*) *Chokey*, the Queen's (or King's) Bench Prison: obs. 2. A cell: spec. a punishment cell.

Chonkey. A species of mince-meat cake (1851).

Chop. 1. A blow: once (sixteenth and seventeenth centuries) literary, and still respectable in some senses: e.g. a chopping (i.e. beating) sea. 2. An exchange, barter, and as verb, to barter, buy and sell, change tactics, veer from one side to the other, vacillate: see Chop, verb (1485); e.g. *to chop logic*, to give argument for argument; *to chop stories*, to cap one anecdote with another. 3. To change quarters: e.g. the wind chopped round to the north (1554). 4. To eat a chop (1841). *Chop and change*, ups and downs, vicissitudes, changes of fortune (1759); *to chop the whiners*, to say prayers: Fr., *manger sa paillasse.* See First chop, Second chop.

Chop-chop. Immediately, quickly.

Chopper. 1. A blow, struck on the face with the back of the hand. Mendoza claims the honour of its invention, but unjustly; he certainly revived, and considerably improved it. It was practised long before our time—Brougham occasionally used it; and Slack, it also appears, struck the chopper in giving the return in many of his battles. 2. A sausage maker. *To have a chopper* (or *button*) on, to be miserable, down in the dumps, in a fit of the blues.

Chopping. Wanton, forward.

Chopping-block. A man who takes an immense amount of punishment (q.v.) in fight without the science or the strength to return it.

Chops. *To lick the chops*, to anticipate a matter with zest or relish (1655); *down in the chops* (or mouth), sad, melancholy: see Chopper (1830).

Chortle. To chuckle, laugh in one's sleeve, snort. [Introduced by Lewis Carroll in *Through the Looking Glass.*]

Chosen Twelve. See Apostles.

Chuck-farthing (**Chuck, Chuck-and-toss,** or **Pitch-and-toss**). A game played with money, which is pitched at a line, gathered, shaken in the hands, and tossed up into the air so as to fall heads and tails until the stakes are guessed away: a parish clerk was formerly named chuck-farthing (1690).

Chucking-out. Ejection.

Chucks. A boy's signal on a master's approach. Fr., *Vesse!*

Chuff it. Be off! Take it away!

Chum. 1. A close companion, a bosom friend, intimate. Formerly a chamber-fellow or mate. [*Johnson*: a term used in the Universities.] (1684). English synonyms: gossip, pal, pard (American), marrow (north-country), cully (theatrical), cummer, ben cull, butty, bo' (nautical), mate or matey, ribstone, bloater. 2. A brother-in-arms. As verb, to occupy a joint lodging, or share expenses, on the closest terms of intimacy with another, to be 'thick as thieves,' or 'thick as hops': Fr., *être dans la chemise de quelqu'un, du dernier bien avec quelqu'un* (1730). *New chum*, a new arrival in a colony, greenhorn, tenderfoot (q.v.) (1861).

Chummage. Money procured by chumming together; but various extensions of meaning appear to have been in vogue at different periods. Thus (1) quartering two or more collegians in one room, and allowing the richest to pay his companions a stipulated sum to go out and find quarters elsewhere. (2) Money paid by the richer sort of prisoners in the Fleet and King's Bench to the poorer for their share of a room . . . A prisoner who can pay for being alone, chooses two poor chums, who for a stipulated price, called chummage, give up their share of the room (*Grose*).

Chummery. Chumhood; also quarters occupied by chums.

Chummy. 1. A chimney-sweep's climbing boy. [A corruption of chimney through chumley] (1635). 2. A diminutive form of chum (q.v.) 3. A low-crowned felt hat: see Golgotha. As adj., very intimate, friendly, sociable: Fr., *chouette, chouettard, chouettaud.*

Chump. 1. A blockhead. 2. A variant of chum: Fr., *vieille branche.* 3. The head: spec. in the phrase *off one's chump* (q.v.): see Crumpet. *Chump of wood*, no good: also a blockhead; *off one's chump*, insane; *to get one's own chump*, to earn one's own living.

Chunk. 1. A thick piece, lump: of wood, bread, coal, etc. (1691). 2. school-board officer.

Church. To take out the works of a watch and substitute another set, so that identification is impossible (1859). *To talk church*: see Talk; *to talk shop*, see Shop; *to go to church*, to get married.

Churchwarden. A clay pipe with a long stem. English synonyms, alderman, steamer, yard of clay.

Churl. *To put a churl upon a gentleman*: see Gentleman.

Cider. *All talk and no cider*, purposeless loquacity, much cry and little wool, much ado about nothing.

Cider-and. Cider mixed with some other ingredient: cf. cold without, hot with, etc. (1742).

Cig. A cigar: see Weed.

Cinch. To get a grip on, corner, put the screw on: also, in the passive sense, to come out on the wrong side in speculations.

Cincinnati-olive. A pig. [A spurious olive oil is manufactured from lard, and Cincinnati is one of the largest centres of the pork-packing industry in America.] *Cincinnati oyster*, a pig's trotter.

Cinder. 1. Any strong liquor, as brandy, whisky, sherry, etc., mixed with a weaker, as soda-water, lemonade, water, etc., to fortify it. 2. A running path or track.

Cinder-garbler. A female servant (*Grose*). English synonyms: marchioness, slavey, cinder-grabber, cinderella, can (Scots), piss-kitchen, Julia.

Circle. *To give the lie in circle*, to lie indirectly, circuitously (1610).

Circling-boy. A swindler, rook. [*Nares*: a species of *roarer*; one who in some way drew a man into a snare, to cheat or rob him.]

Circs. Circumstances.

Circumbendibus. A roundabout, spec. a long-winded, story (1681).

Circumlocution-office. A centre of red-tape, a roundabout way. A term invented by Charles Dickens and applied at first in ridicule to public offices, where everybody tries to shuffle off his responsibilities upon some one else.]

Circumslogdologize. See Stockdollagize.

Circumstance. *Not a circumstance*, etc., not to be compared with, a trifle, of no account—unfavourable comparison. *To whip* [something] *into a circumstance*, to surpass.

Circus-cuss. A circus-rider.

Citizen. A wedge for prising open safes: used before the alderman (q.v.) or jemmy (q.v.) are brought into play. Whence *citizen's-friend*, a smaller wedge than the citizen. The order in which the tools are used is (1) citizen's friend, (2) citizen, (3) the alderman (i.e. a jemmy), and sometimes (4) a Lord mayor.

City College. Newgate; in New York, The Tombs: see Cage.

City-stage. The gallows: formerly in front of Newgate: see Nubbing cheat.

Civil Reception. See House of Civil Reception.

Civil-rig. A trick to obtain alms by a profuse show of civility and obsequiousness.

Civvies. Civilian clothes, as opposed to regimentals.

Clack. 1. Idle or loquacious talk, gossip, prattle (1440). As verb, to gabble. 2. The tongue. A more ancient form was clap, dating back to 1225. English synonyms: glib, red-rag, clapper, bubber, velvet, jibb, quail-pipe. Hence, *clack-box*, (1) the mouth: see Potato-trap. (2) A chatterbox.

Clack-loft. A pulpit.

Claim. To steal: see Prig. *To jump a claim*, to take forcible possession, to defraud: specifically to seize land which had been taken up and occupied by another settler, or squatter (1846).

Clam. 1. A blockhead: cf. *Shakespeare* (*Much Ado*, II. iii.), 'Love may transform me to an oyster; but I'll take my oath on it, till he hath made an oyster of me, he shall never make me such a fool.' 2. The mouth or lips: also clam-shell: Shut your clam-shell, shut your mouth. The padlock now used on the United States mail-bags is called the clam-shell padlock. See Potato-trap. (1825).

Clam-butcher. A man who opens clams; the attendant at an oyster bar is an Oyster butcher.

Clink. A pewter tankard: formerly a silver one (1785).

Clinker. 1. A great lie (*Grose*): see Whopper. 2. Silver plate: whence *clink-napper*, a thief whose speciality was silver plate.

Clap (or **Clapper**). 1. The tongue (1225). 2. *To clap eyes on*, to get a sight of, spot (q.v.); *to clap on*, to apply oneself with energy, set to, peg away.

Clapper-dudgeon. A whining beggar (1567).

Clap-of-thunder. A glass of gin: see Flash of lightning (1821).

Clap-shoulder. A sheriff's officer, bum-bailiff (1630).

Claras. Caledonian Railway Deferred and Ordinary Stock.

Claret. Blood: variants are badminton, bordeaux, and cochineal-dye: Fr., *vermeil* (or *vermois*) (1604). *To tap one's claret*, to draw blood. Hence, *claret jug*, the nose.

Clarian (Cambridge University). A member of Clare Hall, Cambridge: see Greyhound.

Class. The highest quality or combination of highest qualities among athletes. He's not class enough, i.e.

not good enough. There's a deal of class about him, i.e. a deal of quality.

Claw. A lash of the cat-o'-nine-tails: hence *clawed off*, severely beaten; *claws for breakfast*, a bout of the cat (q.v.).

Claw-hammer. A dress coat: also steel-pen coat and swallow-tail.

Clay. A clay pipe: cf. Yard of clay. *To moisten* (*soak* or *wet*) *one's clay*, to drink (1718).

Clean. 1. Entirely, altogether, e.g. clean gone, clean broke, etc. 2. Expert, smart. *To clean out*, to exhaust, strip, rack, or ruin: Fr., *se faire lessiver*.

Clean-potato. The right thing: of an action indiscreet or dishonest, it is said that It's not the clean potato.

Clean-straw (Winchester College). Clean sheets. [Before 1540 the beds were bundles of straw on a stone floor. At that date Dean Fleshmonger put in oaken floors, and provided proper beds, such as existed in 1871 in Third, and later in the case of the Prefect of Hall's unused beds in Sixth. The term has never been used in reference to mattresses of any kind, straw or other.]

Clean-wheat. *It's the clean wheat*, i.e. the best of its kind: see A1.

Clear. (1) Thick with liquor. [Apparently on the *lucus a non lucendo* principle.] (1688). *Clear as mud*, not particularly lucid; *to clear out* (or *off*), to depart (1825); (2) to rid of cash, ruin, clean out (1849).

Clear-crystal. White spirits, as gin and whisky, but also extended to brandy and rum.

Clear-grit. 1. (Canadian). A member of the colonial Liberal party. 2. (American). The right sort, having no lack of spirit, unalloyed, decided.

Cleave. To wanton.

Clegg. A horse-fly.

Clencher. See Clincher.

Clergyman. A chimney-sweep: see Chimney-sweep. *St. Nicholas' clerk* (or *clergyman*), a highwayman (1589).

Clerked. Imposed upon, sold (q.v.) (1785).

Clerk's blood. Red ink: a common expression of Charles Lamb's.

Clever-shins. One who is sly to no purpose.

Cleyme. An artificial sore: made by beggars to excite charity.

Click. A blow: also a hold in wrestling (1819). As verb, to stand at a shop-door and invite customers in, as salesmen and shoemakers do (*Dycke*). *To click a nab*, to snatch a hat.

Clicker (or **Klicker**). 1. A shopkeeper's tout. [Formerly a shoemaker's doorsman or barker (q.v.), but in this particular trade the term is nowadays appropriated to a foreman who cuts out leather and dispenses materials to workpeople; a sense not altogether wanting from the very first] (1690). 2. A knock-down blow. 3. One who apportions the booty or 'regulars.'

Clift. To steal: see Prig.

Climb. *To climb down*, to abandon a position: as subs., downward or retrograde emotion, the act of surrender.

Clinching. A prison cell: hence *to get* (or *kiss*) *the clinch* (or *clink*), to be imprisoned.

Clincher (or **Clencher**). 1. That which decides a matter: spec. a retort which closes an argument, a finisher, settler, corker (1754). 2. An unsurpassed lie, stopper-up: see Whooper.

Cling-rig. See Clink-rig.

Clink. 1. A prison, lock-up; spec. applied, it is thought, to a noted gaol in the borough of Southwark; subsequently to places—like Alsatia, the Mint, etc.—privileged from arrests; and latterly, to a small dismal prison, or a military guard room (1525): see Cage. 2. Silver plate: also *Clinch* (1781). 3. Money: cf. Chink (1724). 4. A very indifferent beer made from the gyle of malt and the sweepings of hop bins, and brewed especially for the benefit of agricultural labourers in harvest time: also barn-clink. *To kiss the clink*, to be imprisoned (1588).

Clinker. 1. In pl., fetters (1690). 2. A crafty, designing man (1690). 3. A chain of any kind: fetter or watch chain. 4. A well-delivered blow, a hot-'un. 5. Any thing or person of first-rate and triumphant quality: also clincher, a settler (1733). 6. A lie: see Whooper.

Clinkerum. See Clink.

Clinking. First-rate, extra good, about the best possible: cf. clipping, thumping, whooping, rattling, etc.

Clink-rig (or **Cling-rig**). Stealing silver tankards (1681).

Clip. A smart blow: e.g. a clip

in the eye. As verb, to move quickly (1833).

Clipe. To tell tales, split, to preach (q.v.).

Clipper. A triumph in horses, men, or women (1836).

Clipping (or **Clippingly**). Excellent, very showy, first-rate. See A1. (1643).

Cloak. A watch case.

Cloak-twitcher. A cloak thief: Fr., *tirelaine* (i.e. wool-puller): see Thief. (1785).

Clobber. Primarily old, but now applied to clothes of any kind. As verb (or *to clobber up*) (1) to patch, revive, or 'translate' clothes. Old clothes that are intended to remain in this country have to be tutored and transformed. The clobberer, the reviver, and the translator lay hands upon them. The duty of the clobberer is to patch, to sew up, and to restore as far as possible the garments to their pristine appearance. (2) To dress smartly, rig oneself out presentably (1879). *To do clobber at a fence*, to sell stolen clothes: Fr., *laver les harnais*.

Clock. A watch. *A red clock*, a gold watch; *a white clock*, a silver watch: usually red 'un and white 'un. *To know what's o'clock*, to be on the alert, in full possession of one's senses, a downey cove: generally knowing (q.v.). Also *to know the time o' day* (1835).

Clod-crusher. 1. A clumsy boot. 2. A large foot. 3. A country yokel: see Clodhopper.

Cloister-roush (Winchester College: obsolete). There were some singular customs at the commencement of Cloister time. Senior part and Cloisters, just before the entrance of the Masters into School, used to engage in a kind of general tournament; this was called Cloister roush.

Clootie. The Devil.

Cloots. Hooves (1786).

Close. *Close as wax*, miserly, niggardly, secretive.

Close-file. A person secretive or close; not open, or communicative.

Cloth. *The cloth*, generic for clergymen, also the members of any particular profession.

Clothes-line. *Able to sleep upon a clothes-line*, capable of sleeping anywhere or in any position: of those able and willing to rest as well upon the roughest shake-down as upon the most comfortable bed. [Cf. Twopenny-rope and Plank-bed.] Also in a transferred sense, a synonym for general capacity and ability.

Clothes-pin. *That's the sort of clothes-pin I am*, that's the sort of man I am: also of women: *That's the sort of hair-pin* (q.v.).

Cloth-market. A bed: Fr., *halle, aux draps* (1710).

Cloud. See Blow a cloud.

Cloud-cleaner. An imaginary sail jokingly assumed to be carried by Yankee ships: cf. Angel's footstool.

Clout. 1. A blow, a kick, whence *clouting*, a beating, basting, tanning (q.v.): see Bang, Dig, and Wipe (1783). 2. A pocket-handkerchief (1621). 3. A woman's under-clothes, from the waist downwards: also her complete wardrobe, on or off her person. 4. A woman's 'bandage,' 'diaper,' or 'sanitary.' As verb, (1) to strike: Fr., *jeter une mandole* (1576); (2) to patch, tinker.

Clouter. A pickpocket: spec. a handkerchief thief. Also as verb, to prig a wipe (q.v.).

Clover. *In clover*, well-off, comfortable, like a horse at grass in a clover field.

Clow (Winchester College). Pronounced *clō*: a box on the ear. Also as verb, to box the ear: it was customary to preface the action by an injunction to Hold down.

Clowe. A rogue (*Grose*).

Cloy (Cligh, or Cly). To steal: see Prig (1610). As subs., a thief: cf. Clow. *Cloying*, stealing.

Cloyer. A thief who intruded on the profits of young sharpers, by claiming a share (1611).

Club. In manœuvring troops, so to blunder the word of command that the soldiers get into a position from which they cannot extricate themselves by ordinary tactics.

Clump. A blow: spec. a thumper with the hand. As verb, to strike, give a heavy blow: Fr., *faire du bifteck*.

Clumper. 1. A thick, heavy boot for walking: see Clump, verb, and Clumping. 2. One that clumps, a basher.

Clumperton. A countryman.

Clumping. Walking heavily and noisily: as in hobnails or in clogs.

Cly. 1. A pocket, purse, sack, or basket (1714). 2. Money: old cant (1748). As verb, to take, have, receive, pocket, to cop (q.v.) (1567). *To cly off*, to carry off: spec. in a surreptitious manner (1656). *To cly the jerk* (or *gerke*), to get a whipping (1567).

Cly-faker. A pickpocket: see Cly and Fake.

Clyster-pipe. An apothecary (1785).

Co. 1. A man (Old Cant). 2. Short for Company, County.

Coach. 1. A private tutor; also in a transferred sense one who trains another in mental or physical acquirements, e.g. in Sanskrit, Shakespeare, cricket, or rowing: analogous terms are crammer, feeder, grinder, etc. (1850). Also as verb, to prepare for an examination by private instruction, to train: in general use both by coacher and coachee (1846). *Coaching*, special instruction, training, grinding (q.v.): Fr., *barbe*. 2. The people in a coach. *To drive a coach and four* (or *six*) *through an Act of Parliament*, to make the law a dead letter, take the law into one's own hands (1700).

Coachee. A coachman: cf. Cabby. See Coach. (1790).

Coach-fellow. A companion, mate (1598).

Coaching. 1. (Rugby School). A flogging: obsolete. 2. See Coach. 3. (commercial). Putting up to pretended auction, thereby hoping to receive fancy prices by fictitious bidders.

Coachman. A fly-fisher's rod.

Coach-wheel. A crown-piece, five shillings: also (*B. E.*)=2s. 6d.: see Cartwheel (1785). *To turn coach wheels* (see Cartwheels).

Coach-whip. 1. A long thin strap. Also, 2. in pl., shreds, tatters.

Coal. See Cole. *To take in one's coals* (or *winter coals*), to contract venereal disease. *Precious coal!* an obsolete exclamation (1596); *to carry* (or *bear*) *coals*, to do dirty work; *to haul over the coals*, to reprimand; *to carry coals to Newcastle*, to do the superfluous; *black as a coal*, as black as may be (1000); *to heap* (*cast*, etc.) *coals of fire*, to produce remorse by returning good for evil (Rom. xii. 20); *to blow the coals*, to fan the passions; *to blow hot coals*, to rage; *to stir coals*, to excite strife; *to blow at a cold coal*, to undertake a hopeless task.

Coal-blower. An alchemist, or quack: in contempt.

Coal-box. A chorus: obviously 'music-hally' or 'circussy': a cross between rhyming slang and a clown's wheeze (q.v.) (1809).

Coal-carrier. A low dependant (1565); cf. to carry coals.

Coaley. A coal-heaver, or porter.

Coaling (or **Coally**). Among 'pros,' a coally or coaling part is one that is acceptable to the player.

Coal-scuttle. A poke bonnet: once modish, later reserved for old-fashioned Quakeresses, and now obsolete except with Hallelujah Lasses (1838).

Coarse-account. *To make of coarse account*, to slight (1579).

Coat. Cloth (q.v.), profession, party: common in seventeenth century. See Tread. *To get the sun into a horse's coat*, to improve its condition by feeding, exercise, etc.; a trainer's term, to express fitness. Phrases, etc.: *To baste* (*coil*, or *pay*) *one's coat*, to thrash, tan (1530); *to be in any one's coat*, in any one's place, stand in one's shoes (1569); *to cut the coat according to the cloth*, to adapt oneself to circumstances; *to turn one's coat*: see Turncoat; *to wear the king's coat*, to serve as a soldier. *To sit on one's own coat-tail*, to live or do anything at one's personal expense; *Who'll tread on the tail of my coat?* (attributed to Irishmen at Donnybrook Fair), to purposely assume a position in which some one may intentionally or unintentionally afford a pretext for a quarrel, provoke attack so as to get up a row; *I would not be in some of their coats* for (any definite or indefinite sum), proverbial: cf. (modern) I would not stand in So-and-so's shoes (1549); *Near is my coat, but nearer is my shirt* (or *skin*), proverbial (1539).

Coax. 1. To dissemble in the shoes the soiled or ragged parts of a pair of stockings (*Grose*). 2. Orig. to befool, whence to gull by petting, wheedle, flatter. [*Johnson*: A low word.] As subs. (1) a wheedler: also coaxer; (2) wheedling.

Cob. 1. A punishment cell: see Clinch. 2. In pl., generic for money: spec. a Spanish coin formerly current in Ireland, worth about 4s. 8d: also the name still given at Gibraltar to a Spanish dollar (1805). 3. (Winchester College). A hard hit at cricket: cf modern introduction: cf. Barter. 4. A chief, a leader. 5. A wealthy man: hence a miser. 6. A huge lumpish person. 7. A testicle. As verb, (1) to hit hard: cf. Cobb; (2) To detect, catch, etc. (3) To humbug, deceive, gammon (q.v.): whence, *cobbled*, caught, spotted (q.v.).

Cobb. To spank, smack the posteriors with (say) a tailor's sleeve-board, fives-bat, etc. (1830).

Cobber. A prodigious falsehood, a thumper, a whopper (q.v.).

Cobble - colter. A turkey: Fr., *orne de balle*, *Jésuite* (1785).

Cobblers'-knock (or **Knock at the Cobbler's Door**). A sort of fancy sliding in which the artist raps the ice in triplets with one foot while progressing swiftly on the other (1836).

Cobblers'-marbles. A corrupt pronunciation of *Cholera morbus*, or Asiatic cholera.

Cobbler's-thumb. The bull-head, a small fish which in England is called the Miller's thumb.

Cobble-text. A prosy person, ignorant preacher.

Coblative. Cobbled, patched up.

Cobweb-morning. A misty morning.

Cobweb - throat. A dry parched throat, hence *to have a cobweb in the throat*, to feel thirsty.

Cocard. An old fool, a simpleton. *Cocardy*, folly.

Cochineal-dye. Blood: see Claret (1853).

Cock. 1. A chief or leader; spec. in such phrases as Cock of the walk, school, etc.; orig. a victor (1711). Hence, *to cry cock*, to acclaim a victor, acknowledge a chief, etc. 2. A familiar address: e.g. Old cock, or Jolly old cock: Fr., *mon vieux zig*, *mon lapin* (1639). 3. A horse not intended to win the race for which it is put down, but kept in the lists to deceive the public. 4. A fictitious narrative in verse or prose of murders, fires, etc., produced for sale in the streets. [Famous manufactories of cocks were kept by 'Jemmy' Catnach and Johnny Pitts, called the Colburn and Bentley of the paper trade: hence anything fictitious or incredible.] 5. Cockney (q.v.). 6. In gambling or playing with 'quads,' a cock is when one (or more) of the nine pieces does not fall flat, but lodges crosswise on another: the player is then given another chance. 7. A night watchman, and fig. a parson. 8. *Good cock* (or *poor cock*), a good (or bad) workman. As adj., chief, first and foremost (1676). As verb, to smoke. *To cock the eye*, to shut or wink one eye, leer, look incredulous: Fr., *cligner des œillets*: cf. Cock-eyed: also *to cock the chin*: Fr., *s'aborgner* (literally, to make oneself blind of one eye by closing it) (1751); *to cock up one's toes*, to die; *That cock won't fight*, that will not do (or, go down); of things problematical or doubtful; *knocked a-cock*, knocked 'all of a heap,' or 'out of time.' Also proverbs and proverbial phrases: Every *cock* is king on his own midden (1225); The young *cock* learneth to crow of the old (1509): also, as the old *cock* crows so does the chick (1589).

Cock-a-doodle-do. A conventional representation of the crow of the cock; a name for this, and hence, a nursery or humorous name for the cock (also Cock-a-doodle). Also as verb.

Cock-a-doodle Broth. Eggs beat up in brandy and a little water (1856).

Cock-a-hoop (or **Cock-on**, or **-in**) **a-hoop.** Strutting; triumphant; high-spirited; uppish. *To set* (*the*) *cock on* (*the*) *hoop*, *cock a hoop*, (1) to drink without stint, make good cheer with reckless prodigality; also (2) as intj., an exclamation of reckless joy or elation, to abandon oneself to reckless enjoyment, cast off restraint, become reckless, give a loose to all disorder, set all by the ears.

Cockalare. A comic or ludicrous representation, a satire lampoon, a disconnected story, discourse, etc.

Cockaloft. Affectedly lofty, stuck up.

Cockall. One that beats all, the 'perfection.'

Cockalorum or **Cockylorum.** 1. A contemptuous address of anything undersized and self-important. 2. A rough-and-tumble game: the players divide into two opposing bands of from twelve to fourteen each—in fact, the more the merrier. One side 'goes down,' so as to constitute a long 'hogsback'—the last boy having a couple of pillows between himself and the wall, and each boy clasping his front-rank man, and carefully tucking his own 'cocoa-nut' under his right arm, so as to prevent fracture of the vertebræ. When the hogsback is thus formed, the other side comes on, leap-frogging on to the backs of those who are down, the best and steadiest jumpers being sent first. Sometimes the passive line is broken quite easily by the ruse of a short high jump, coming with irresistible impulse on a back not expecting weight. Sometimes a too ambitious leap-frogger ruins his party by overbalancing and falling off. It is, however, as the last two or three leap-froggers come on that the real excitement more generally begins. There is absolutely no back-space belonging to the other party left to them; and they are obliged to pile themselves one upon another—Pelion on Ossa, as it is called. When the last man is up it is his duty to say, 'High cockalorum jig jig jig—high cockalorum jig jig ijg—high cockalorum jig jig jig—off, off, off,' and then alone is it permissible to fall in one indistinguishable heap to the ground. The repeater of the shibboleth often falls off himself as he is uttering the above incantation—thus losing the victory for his side.

Cock-and-breeches. A sturdy, under-sized man, or boy.

Cock-and-bull-story, subs. (colloquial). An idle or silly story. [Presumably from some old legend of a cock and a bull, *a propos* to which it should be noted that the French equivalent is *coq-à-l'âne*, a cock-and-ass] (1603). Hence, disconnected, misleading talk, incredible story, a canard.

Cock-and-hen-club, subs. (common). 1. A free and easy (q.v.), a sing-song, where females are admitted as well as males (1819). 2. A club for both sexes; e.g. the Lyric.

Cock-and-pinch. The old-fashioned beaver of forty years since.

Cockapert. Impudent, saucy. As subs., a saucy fellow.

Cockatoo-farmer (or **Cockatoo**). In Victoria and New South Wales a small farmer or selector: in contempt, and used by large holders of agricultural squatters with small capital (1865).

Cockatrice. 1. A common prostitute; also a mistress or 'keep' (1600). 2. A baby.

Cock-a-wax. 1. A cobbler: see Snob. 2. A familiar address.

Cock-bawd. A male brothel keeper (*Grose*).

Cock-brain. A lighthearted, foolish person. Also *cock-brained*, thoughtless, silly.

Cockchafer. The treadmill: see Wheel of life.

Cocked. *Half-cocked*, *full-cocked*, etc. Various degrees of drunkenness: see Screwed.

Cocked-hat. *Knocked into a cocked hat.* Limp enough to be doubled up and carried flat under the arm [like the cocked hat of an officer]. Also, fig. stupefied, speechless. Synonyms: doubled up; knocked into the middle of next week; spifflicated; beaten to a jelly; knocked a-cock; wiped out; sent all of a heap; bottled up; settled; full of beans, or snuff; sent, done, or smashed to smithereens.

Cocker. A pugilist, quarrelsome, contentious man, wrangler. *According to Cocker*, according to rule; properly, arithmetically, or correctly done. [Old Cocker was a famous writing master in Charles II.'s time, and the author of a treatise on arithmetic: probably popularised by Murphy's *The Apprentice* (1756), in which the strong point of the old merchant Wingate is his extreme reverence for Cocker and his arithmetic.] In America, according to Gunter (q.v.).

Cockerel. A pert young man.

Cockerer. A wanton.

Cock-eye. A squinting eye. *Cock-eyed*, squinting, boss-eyed (q.v.).

Cock-fighting. *That beats cock-fighting*, phr. (common). A general expression of approval—up to the mark; A1; That surpasses everything else. [From the esteem in which the sport was held.] (1659). *To live like fighting-cocks*, to have the best food and plenty of it, be supplied with the best.

Cock-horse. Triumphant; in full swing; cock-a-hoop.

Cock-laird (Scots). A small farmer or proprietor cultivating his own land, a yeoman.

Cockle. Whimsical. Hence, *cockle-brained* (*headed*, etc.), flighty, fanciful, whimmy.

Cockles of the Heart. A jocose vulgarism encountered in a variety of combinations; e.g. that will rejoice, or tickle, or warm, the cockles of your heart, etc. [It is suggested (*N. and Q.*, 7 S., iv. 26) that a hint as to its origin may be found in Lower, an eminent anatomist of the seventeenth century, who thus speaks in his *Tractatus de Corde* (1669), p. 25, of the muscular fibres of the ventricles: 'Fibræ quidem rectis hisce exteri oribus in dextro ventriculo proximè subjectæ obliquè dextrorsum ascendentes in basin cordis terminantur, et spirali suo ambitu helicem sive *cochleam* satis aptè referunt.' The ventricles of the heart might, therefore, be called *cochlea cordis*, and this would easily be turned into Cockles of the heart.] Fr., *lécheras la face* (that'll rejoice the cockles of your heart) (1671). *To cry cockles*, to be hanged: see Ladder.

Cockloche. A mean fellow, silly coxcomb: a generic reproach (1611).

Cock-loft. The head: cf. old proverb, All his gear is in his *cock-loft*; i.e. All his wealth, work, or worth is in his head (1642).

Cock-mate. A familiar, intimate, best friend.

Cockney, subs. (colloquial). One born within the sound of Bow-bells. [The origin of cockney has been much debated; but, says Dr. Murray, in the course of an exhaustive statement (*Academy*, May 10, 1890, p. 320), the history of the word, so far as it means a person, is very clear and simple. We have the senses (1) 'cockered or pet child,' 'nestle-cock,' 'mother's darling,' 'milksop,' the name being applicable primarily to the child, but continued to the squeamish and effeminate man into which he grows up. (2) A nickname applied by country people to the inhabitants of great towns, whom they considered 'milksops,' from their daintier habits and incapacity for rough work. York, London, Perugia, were, according to Harman, all nests of cockneys. (3) By about 1600 the name began to be attached especially to Londoners, as the representatives *par excellence* of the city milksop. One understands the disgust with which a cavalier in 1641 wrote that he was 'obliged to quit Oxford at the approach of Essex and Waller, with their prodigious number of cockneys.'] Hence, Cockney-shire, London.

Cockpecked. Masculine home-rule: spec. of a tyrannical kind: cf. Hen-pecked.

Cockquean. A man who interests himself in women's affairs: a common form is cotquean.

Cock-robin. A soft, easy fellow (*Grose*).

Cock-robin Shop. A small printing office: a place where the cheapest work is done at the lowest price: cf. Slop shop.

Cock's-comb. 1. A cap as worn by a buffoon or professional fool. 2. The head. 3. A fop, conceited fool.

Cock's-egg. *To send one for a cock's egg.* To send on a fool's errand; to gammon (q.v.): cf. pigeon's milk, oil of strappum, strap oil, the squad umbrella, etc.

Cock-shy. 1. A mark, butt, or target; any person or thing that is the centre of jaculation (1834). 2. The establishment of a strolling proprietor, where sticks may be thrown at coconuts or the like, for payment.

Cocksure. Confidently certain; arrogantly sure. [Probably a corruption of 'cocky sure.' Shakespeare (I Henry IV., II. i.) employs the phrase in the sense of Sure as the cock of a firelock. We steal as in a castle, cocksure: and still earlier usages imply its derivation from the fact that the cock was much surer than the older-fashioned match.] (1549).

Cocksy. Impudent, bumptious, saucy: cf. Cocky.

Cocktail. 1. A prostitute; a wanton. 2. A coward. 3. An upstart, one aping gentility. 4. (American). A drink composed of spirits (gin, brandy, whisky, etc.), bitters, crushed ice, sugar, etc., the whole whisked briskly until foaming, and then drunk 'hot.' As adj., (1) underbred, wanting in 'form' (chiefly of horses). (2) Fresh, foaming: of beer (see subs. 4). (3) (army). Unsoldierlike; anything) unworthy of the regular army, e.g. at one time the Volunteer auxiliaries were described as a cocktailed crew.

Cock-up (printers'). A superior; e.g. the smaller letters in the following examples: Y^{e} Lim^{td}.

Comp$^{y.}$; J$^{no.}$ Smith, Sen$^{r.}$; N^{o}; London^{l}: also a large-type initial letter.

Cocky (or **Cocking**). 1. Pert, saucy, forward, coolly audacious, over confident, 'botty' (1711). 2. (Stock Exchange). Brisk, active. As subs. (old), a term of endearment: see also Cockatoo-farmer.

Cockyolly-bird. A nursery endearment: of birds; cf. dickey-bird, chickabiddy.

Cocoa-nut. The head: Fr., *coco*: see Crumpet (1834). *That accounts for the milk in the cocoa-nut*, a rejoinder upon having a thing explained. *No milk in the cocoa-nut*, insane, silly, cracked.

Cocum (**Kocum**). 1. Shrewdness, ability, luck, cleverness. [Yiddish.] 2. (publishers'). A sliding scale of profit. [Publishers sometimes issue books without fixing the published price, leaving the retailer to make what he can.] *To fight* or *play cocum*, to play double, be wary, cunning, artful (1857).

Cod. 1. Apparently orig. generic for a man: cf. bloke, cove, fellow, etc. Hence in several specialised senses: e.g. 2. A fool, a humbug, an imposition (*B. E.*), and as verb, to hoax, chaff, take a rise out of. 3. A pal, or friend; generally prefixed to a surname; at Charterhouse, a pensioner (see Thackeray, *Newcomes*, ii. 333). [Here cod probably = 'codlin,' an old endearment.] 4. A purse; a *cod* of money, a large sum of money. [A.S. *cod* or *codd*, a small bag.]

Coddam (or **Coddom**). A game played three, four, or more a side. The only 'property' required is a coin, a button, or anything which can be hidden in the clenched hand. The principle is simplicity itself—'Guess whose hand it's in.' If the guesser 'brings it home,' his side takes the piece, and the centre man works it. If the guess be wrong, a chalk is taken to the holders, who go on again.

Codding. Nonsense, humbug, chaff: see Cod.

Codger. A familiar address, especially old codger, a curious old fellow, odd fish, rum character; a precise, and sometimes mean or miserly man (1760).

Codland. Newfoundland: cf. Cod-preserves.

Codling. A raw youth.

Cod-preserves. The Atlantic.

Cod's-head. A stupid fellow, a fool: see Buffle (1675).

Cofe. See Cove.

Coffee. Beans. *Greased coffee*, pork and beans.

Coffee-house (or **Coffee-shop**). 1. A water-closet. 2. In India, a place at which the residents of a station (esp. in Upper India) meet to talk over a light breakfast of coffee, toast, etc., at an earlier hour than the regular breakfast of the day; the name is also applied to the gathering, and so the halt of a regiment for refreshment on an early march, etc.

Coffee-mill. The mouth; a grinder itself, and furnished with grinders.

Coffee-milling Grinding (q.v.); working hard. Also taking a 'sight' by putting the thumb of one hand to the nose and grinding the little finger with the other, as if working an imaginary coffee mill (1837).

Coffins. 1. A piece of live coal thrown out explosively from a fire, and supposed to represent a coffin and presage death: cf. Winding-sheet, Thief, etc. 2. An ill-found unseaworthy vessel. 3. In pl. (Stock Exchange), the Funeral Furnishing Company's Shares. *A nail in one's coffin*: see Nail.

Cog. A tooth.

Coke. *Go and eat coke*, a contemptuous retort.

Coker. A lie (*Grose*): see Whopper.

Colchester-clock. A large oyster.

Cold. *To leave out in the cold*, to neglect, shut out, abandon.

Cold-blood. A house licensed for the sale of beer, not to be drunk on the premises.

Cold-coffee. 1. A sell, hoax, trumpery affair. 2. Misfortune, ill-luck: also *cold gruel*; *to have one's comb cut*, to experience a run of ill-luck: Fr., *être abonné au guignon*. 3. A snub for proffered kindness.

Cold-comfort. An article sent out on approval and returned.

Cold-cook. An undertaker. English synonyms: carrion hunter, body snatcher, death hunter, black worker (see Black work). Hence, *cold-cookshop*, an undertaker's workshop. *Cold meat*, a corpse: cf. pickles (q.v.), specimens direct from

the subject. *To make cold meat of one,* to kill. *Cold-meat box,* a coffin. *Cold-meat cart,* a hearse. *Cold-meat train,* a funeral train to Brookwood and other cemeteries: but specifically a late night train to reach Aldershot in time for morning duty: properly a goods train, but a carriage is attached which is known as the 'Larky Subaltern': this particular train carries nothing more dreadful than a portion of the beef and mutton for the morning ration to the troops in camp; and, as stated, a few belated officers.

Cold-deck. A prepared pack of cards: also a good hand obtained on first dealing, and without drawing fresh cards.

Cold Pig. *To give cold pig,* to waken a sleeper by sluicing him with cold water, or by suddenly stripping him of bed-clothes (1818). As subs., 1. A person robbed of his clothing. 2. A corpse. 3. The empty returns sent back by rail to wholesale houses.

Cold-shivers. The effect of illness, intense fear, or violent emotion: also cold shake, which may refer alike to a period of cold weather, or an attack of fever and ague.

Cold Shoulder. Studied coldness, neglect, or contempt (1816).

Cold-tea. Brandy (1690).

Cold-water Army. The world of total abstainers.

Cold-without. Spirits and cold water without sugar: cf. Cider and, Hot with, etc. (1837).

Cole (or Coal). Money: generic: see Rhino (1671). *To post* or *tip the cole,* to hand over money, shell or fork out.

Colfabias (or Colfabis). A Latinized Irish phrase signifying the closet of decency, applied as a slang term to a place of resort in Trinity College, Dublin (*Hotten*).

Coliander (or Coliander Seeds). Money: generic (*Grose*): see Rhino.

Collar. To seize, appropriate, steal. *To collar the bun* (*cake, Banbury,* or *confectioner's shop*), to be easily first, to surpass. *Out of collar,* out of work, of cash, training. Conversely, *in collar,* in work, comfortable circumstances, fit or in form. *Against collar,* uphill, working against difficulties, against the grain. *To be put to the pin of the collar,* to be driven to extremities, come to the end of one's resources. *To wear the collar,* to be subject to control not altogether to one's liking: the antithesis of, to have the whip hand, and, to wear the breeches; etc.

Collar. See Big Bird.

Collar-and-elbow. A peculiar style of wrestling—the Cornwall and Devon style.

Collar-day. Hanging day: also Wry-neck-day (q.v.): Fr., *jour de la St. Jean Baptiste.*

Collared. Unable to play one's usual game owing to temper, funk, or other causes.

Collared Up. Kept close to business: cf. Out of collar.

Collar-work. Laborious work.

Collector. A highwayman or footpad.

College. A prison; the inmates are called Collegians or Collegiates (q.v.); Newgate was formerly called the City College (1703). *Ladies' College,* a brothel: see Nanny-shop.

Colleger. A square cap, a mortar-board (q.v.): see Golgotha.

Collogue. To confer confidentially and secretly, conspire, wheedle, flatter (1596).

Colly-molly. Melancholy: cf. Solemoncholy and (*Dr. Marigold's Prescriptions*) Lemonjolly.

Colly-wobbles. The stomach-ache, flatulency.

Colour. 1. A handkerchief worn as a badge by prize-fighters and other professional athletes. Each man chose his own, and it was once a practice to sell them to backers to be worn at the ring-side: see Billy. In racing circles the colours are the owner's, and are shown in the jockeys' caps and jackets. 2. Payment: e.g. I have not seen the colour of his money = I have not received payment. *Coloured on the card,* having the colours in which a jockey is to ride inserted on the card of the race. *Off colour,* exhausted, run down, seedy. *To colour one's meerschaum,* to get brandy-faced, to drink one's nose into a state of pimples and scarlet.

Colquarron. The neck: see Scrag.

• **Colt.** 1. One new to the office, the exercise of any art, etc.; e.g. a professional cricketer during his first season, a first-time juryman, a thief in his novitiate. 2. A rope, knotted at one end, and whipped at the other. 3. A thief's billy (q.v.). 4. A burglar's livery-stable keeper: a colt-man (*Grose*). 5. An attendant on a serjeant at his making. As verb, (1) to thrash: *colting*, a thrashing. (2) To cause a person to stand treat by way of being made free of a new place, to make one pay one's footing. Hence, *coltage*, the footing paid by colts on their first appearance.

Colt's Tooth. *To have a colt* (or *colt's tooth*), to be fond of youthful pleasures; in the case of elderly persons, to have juvenile tastes; to be of wanton disposition and capacity. [In allusion to a supposed desire to shed the teeth and see life over again.] (1500).

Columbine. A prostitute.

Columbus. Failure. *A regular Columbus*, an utter failure, a 'dead frost': Fr., *Il pleut!* = the play is a failure.

Comb. *To comb one's hair*, to take to task, scold, keep in order. Sometimes to thrash, and generally ill-treat: also *to comb down*, *to comb one's noddle with a three-legged* (or *joint*) *stool* (1593).

Comb-brush. A lady's maid (1750).

Combie. A Combination room, the parlour in which college dons drink wine after Hall: also see Combination.

Combination. A woman's undergarment, shift and drawers in one. Also Combie, and (American) Chemiloon (chemise and pantaloon).

Come. 1. To practise, understand, act the part of: cf. Come over and Come tricks. 2. To lend: e.g. Has he come it? *To make drunk come*, to become intoxicated: see Screwed. *To come about one*, to circumvent: cf. Come over and Come round. *To come down from the walls*, to abandon a position. *To come it*, (1) to proceed at a great rate, to make a splash and dash (in extravagance), to cut a figure. (2) To inform; (3) to show fear; (4) to succeed: spec. in You can't come it, i.e. you cannot succeed. *To come it strong*, to exaggerate, lay it on thick, carry to extremes. *To come John* (or *Lord Audley*), see John Audley. *To come off*, to happen, occur, result from (1609). *Come off the grass* (or *the tall grass*), None of your airs! Don't put it on so! Don't tell any more lies! Fr., *As-tu fini tes manières* (or *magnes*)? *ne fais donc pas ta Sophie*, and *ne fais donc pas ton fendart*. *To come out* (1) to make an appearance, display oneself, express oneself vigorously, make an impression: sometimes in an intensified form. *to come out strong*: cf. Come it strong (1637); (2) to turn out, result: e.g. How did it come out? (3) to make a first appearance in society. *To come out of the little end of the horn*, to fare badly. *To come over*, to influence, overreach, cheat. *To come the old soldier* (or any person or thing) *over one*, to imitate, overbear, wheedle, rule by an assumption of authority: Fr., *essayer de monter un bateau à quelqu'un*; or *monter le coup* or *un battage* (1713). *To come round*, to influence, circumvent, persuade: cf. Come over and come about, sense 1. *To come the gum game*, to over-reach by concealment. *To come through a side door*, to be born illegitimately. *To come to stay*, to be endowed with permanent qualities. *To come to* (or *up to*) *time*, to answer the call of 'Time!' after the thirty seconds' rest between round and round, hence by analogy, to be on the alert, ready. *To come up smiling*, to laugh (or grin) at punishment; hence (generally) to be superior to rebuff or disaster, face defeat without flinching. *To come up to the chalk*: see Scratch. *To come the artful*, to essay to deceive; *To come the heavy*, to affect a vastly superior position; *To come the ugly*, to threaten; *To come the nob* (or *the don*), to put on airs; *To come the lardy-dardy*, to dress for the public and 'look up to your clobber'; *To come the serjeant*, to issue peremptory orders; *To come the spoon*, to make love; *To come the gipsy*, to try to defraud; *To come the Rothschild* to pretend to be rich; and *To come the Traviata* (prostitutes, now obsolete), to feign consumption, to put on 'the Traviata cough' (q.v.) with a view to beguiling charitable males.

Come-down. A fall, whether of pride or worldly prospects, an abandonment of something for something else of less value or moment. As verb, used either independently or in combination: e.g. *To come down*, *to come down handsome*, or *to come down with the dust, dues, dibs, ready, oof, shiners, blunt, needful*, (1) to pay, i.e. to 'part'; or to lay down (as in payment); to fork out: see Shell out (1701); (2) to abate prices.

Comedy-merchant. An actor: see Cackling-cove.

Comflogisticate. To embarrass, put out of countenance, confuse, hoax, cf. Bamblustercate.

Comfoozled. Overcome, exhausted (1836).

Comfortable-importance (or **Comfortable-impudence**). A wife; also a mistress in a wife's position: Fr., *gouvernement*: see Dutch.

Comical. A napkin. *To be struck comical*, to be astonished.

Coming. Wanton, forward, sexual (1750).

Commercial. 1. A tramping rogue or vagabond: cf. Traveller. 2. A commercial traveller.

Commission (or **Mish**). A shirt. [From the Italian.]

Commister. A clergyman: also camister (q.v.).

Common-doings. Every-day fare: cf. chicken-fixings. [A phrase of Western origin, at first restricted in its meaning, but now including ordinary transactions as compared to those either large or peculiarly profitable; applied to men, actions, and things. 'What shall we do?' says a poor frontiersman's wife, when she hears of a Federal officer who is to take up his quarters at her cabin for a day; 'I can't give him common-doings.']

Commoner-grub (Winchester College). A dinner formerly given by Commoners to College after cricket matches. [Commoners are boys not on the foundation.]

Commoney. A clay marble: cf. Alley.

Common-jack. A prostitute.

Common-plug. An ordinary member of society.

Commonsensical. Marked with common sense.

Common-sewer. A drink, dram; or 'go.' [From common sewer, a drain.]

Communicator. *To agitate the communicator*, to ring the bell.

Comp. A compositor. [An abbreviated form of companion now peculiar to compositors, but originally applied to pressmen who work in couples, as well as to compositors who work in a companionship, or ship (q.v.).]

Company. *To see company*, to live by prostitution.

Competition-wallah. One who enters the Indian Civil Service by examination.

Compo. A sailor's monthly advance of wages.

Compy-shop. A truck shop. [Probably a corruption of company-shop: workmen, before the passing of certain Truck Acts (q.v.), having been frequently compelled to make their weekly purchases at shops either kept by, or worked to the profit of, their employer.]

Con (Winchester College). A rap on the head with the knuckles, or anything hard, such as a cricket ball. As verb, to rap with the knuckles. [The derivation formerly accepted at Winchester was from *κονδυλον*=a knuckle, but the editors of the *Wykehamist* suggest its origin in the North Country *con*, 'to fillip,' with which the French *se cogner* exactly corresponds.]

Concaves and Convexes. Cards prepared for cheating. All from the eight to the king are cut convex, and all from the deuce to the seven, concave; so that by cutting the pack broadwise you cut convex, and by cutting them lengthwise you cut concave. Sometimes they are shaped the reverse way, so that, if suspicion arises, a pack so treated may be substituted for the other to the same effect. In this trick the sharper has less in his favour than in others, because the intended victim may cut in the usual way, and so cut a low card to the dealer. But the certainty of being able to cut or deal a high or low card at pleasure, gives him an advantage against which skill is of none avail. Other modes of sharping are by means of Reflectors (q.v.); Longs and shorts, (q.v.); Pricked Cards (q.v.); The Bridge (q.v.); Skinning (q.v.); Weaving (q.v.); The Gradus (or Step) (q.v.); Palming (q.v.); and The Telegraph (q.v.).

Concerned. Drunk: see Screwed. (1686).

Concher. A tame or quiet beast.

Condiddle. To purloin or steal (1825).

Condog. To agree with: cf. concur.

Confab. Familiar talk (1778). As verb, to talk in a familiar manner, to chat.

Confectionery. A drinking bar: cf. Grocery, and Lush-crib.

Confidence Trick (Dodge, or Buck). A process of swindling, obtaining trust with the deliberate intention of betraying it to one's own advantage. A greenhorn meets (or rather is picked up by) a stranger who invites him to drink. The stranger admires him openly, protests his confidence in him, and to prove his sincerity hands him over a large sum of money [snide, q.v.)] or valuables [bogus, q.v.] with which to walk off and return. The greenhorn does both, whereupon the stranger suggests that it is his turn next, and being favoured with certain proofs of confidence, which in this case are real, decamps, and is no more seen. This is the simplest form of the trick, but the confidence man is inexhaustible in devices. In many cases the subject's idiosyncrasy takes the form of an idiotic desire to overreach his fellows; i.e. he is only a knave, wrong side out, and it is upon this idiosyncrasy that the operator works. He offers a sham gold watch at the price of a nickel one; he calls with presents from nowhere where none are expected; he writes letters announcing huge legacies to persons absolutely kinless; and as his appeal is addressed to the sister passions of greed and dishonesty, he seldom fails of his reward. Fr., *mener en bateau un pante pour le refaire*=to stick a jay and flap him.

Conflabberated. Bothered, upset, flummoxed (q.v.).

Conflabberation. A confused wrangle, a hullabaloo.

Confounded. Excessive, odious, detestable, e.g. a *confounded* nuisance, lie, humbug, etc.: cf. Awful, Beastly, and other 'strumpets of speech' (1767).

Confubuscate. To confuse, perplex, astonish: cf. Confusticate.

Coniacker. A counterfeiter, smasher, (q.v.), 'queer-bit' faker. [Obviously a play upon coin, money, and hack, to mutilate.] Fr., *un mornifleur tarte*.

Conish. Genteel (1830).

Conk. The nose. English synonyms: boko (or boco), proboscis, smeller, bowsprit, claret-jug, gig, muzzle, cheese-cutter, beak, snuff-box, snorter, post-horn, paste-horn, handle, snout, nozzle, smelling-cheat, snotter, candlestick, celestial, snottle-box, snuffler, trumpet, snorer, peak.

Conoodle. See Canoodle.

Conscience. A kind of association in a small theatrical company for the allotment of shares in the profits, etc. The man who is lucky enough to have a concern of his own, generally a very small affair, however badly he may act, must be the leading man or first low comedian, perhaps both. He becomes the manager, of course, and thus has one share for 'fit-up,' one for scenery, one and a half for management, one for wardrobe, one and a half as leading man; and the same is given to the wife, who, of course, will not play anything but the juvenile lead, but who at any other time would be glad to play first old woman.

Considerable Bend. *To go on the considerable bend*, to go in for a bout of dissipation.

Consonant-choker. One that clips his G's and muffles his R's.

Constable. *To out-* (or *over-run*) *the constable*, to live beyond one's means and get into debt; also, in a figurative sense, to escape from a bad argument, to change the subject, to talk about what is not understood (1663).

Constician. A member of an orchestra.

Constitutional. A walk undertaken for the sake of health and exercise [i.e. for the benefit of the constitution]: Fr., *tronchiner* (1850).

Contango (Stock Exchange). A fine paid by the buyer to the seller of stock for carrying over the engagement to another settling day, and representing a kind of interest for a fourteen days' extension. [Thought to be a corruption of continuation.] (1853.)

Content. Dead: see Hop the twig.

Continent (Winchester College). Ill; on the sick list. [From *continens cameram vel lectum*, keeping one's room or bed.] See Abroad.

Continental. *To care* (or *be worth*) *not a continental* or *continental damn*, to be worthless; to care not in the least degree.

Continuations. Trousers: see Kicks. [Of analogous derivation to inexpressibles; unmentionables; mustn't-mention'ems; untalkaboutables, etc.] (1841).

Contraptions. Small articles, tools, and so forth (1838).

Convenience. A water-closet or chamber-pot.

Convenient. A mistress (1676).

Convexes. See Concaves.

Convey. To steal (1596). Hence *conveyance*, a theft (1592). *Conveyancer*, a thief: also conveyer. *Conveyancing*, thieving.

Cony (or Tom Cony). A simpleton.

Conycatch. To cheat, deceive, trick, bite (q.v.) (1593). Hence, *cony-catcher*, a cheat, sharper, trickster. *Cony-catching*, cheating, trickery, swindling after the manner of Conycatchers (q.v.).

Coo-e-e-e or Coo-ey. A signal cry of the Australian blackfellow, adopted by the invading whites. The final 'e' is a very high note, a sort of prolonged screech, that resounds for miles through the bush, and thus enables parties that have lost each other to ascertain their relative positions.

Cook. 1. To tamper with, garble, or falsify: accounts are cooked when so altered as to look better than they are; pictures are cooked when dodged-up for sale; painters say that a picture will not cook when it is so excellent as to be beyond imitation (1751). 2. To swelter with heat and sweat. *To cook one's goose*, to settle, worst, kill, ruin. English synonyms: to anodyne, to put to bed, to snuff out, to give (or cook) one's gruel, to corpse, to cooper up, to wipe out, to spiflicate, to settle (or settle one's hash), to squash, to shut up, to send to pot, to smash, to finish, to do for, to put one's light out, to stop one's little game, to stop one's galloping, to put on an extinguisher, to clap a stopper on, to bottle up, to squelch, to play hell with, to rot, to squash up, to stash, to give a croaker. For synonyms in the sense of circumvention: see Floored.

Cookeyshine. An afternoon meal at which cookies form a staple dish: cf. Tea-fight, Muffin-worry.

Cook-ruffian. A bad or indifferent cook, one 'who would cook the devil in his feathers.'

Cool. 1. Impertinent, audacious, calmly impudent. 2. (In reference to money; e.g. a cool hundred, thousand, etc.). Commonly expletive; but sometimes used to cover a sum a little above the figure stated (1750). As verb (Eton College). To kick hard. Hence, *Cool-kick*, when a Behind (q.v.), or back, gets a kick with no one up to him. *Cool as a cucumber*, without heat; also, metaphorically, calm and composed. *To cool one's coppers*, to allay the morning's thirst after a night of drink.

Cool-crape. A shroud, or winding sheet (*Grose*) (1742).

Cooler. 1. A woman (1742). 2. A prison: see Cage. 3. Ale or stout after spirits and water: sometimes called Putting the beggar on the gentleman; also Damper (q.v.) (1821).

Cool-lady. A female camp follower who sells brandy (*Grose*).

Cool-nantz. Brandy: see Drinks.

Coon. 1. A man. 2. A nigger. e.g. a coons' bawdy house, house where none are kept but girls of colour. *Gone coon*, one in a serious or hopeless difficulty. *To go the whole coon*, to go the whole hog.

Coon's-age. A long time, a blue moon.

Coop. A prison: see Cage. Hence, *Cooped up*, imprisoned.

Cooper (or Cooper up). 1. To destroy, spoil, settle, or finish. 2. To forge. 3. To understand. Hence, *Coopered*, hocussed, spoiled, ruined, e.g. a house is said to be coopered when the importunity of many tramps has caused its inmates to cold-shoulder the whole fraternity; a coopered horse is a horse that has been 'got at' with a view to prevent its running.

Coored. Whipped (D. Haggart, *Life*, Glossary, p. 171 [1821].)

Coot. A stupid fellow; generally a silly, or mad, old coot: stupid as a coot is a common English provincialism: see Buffle.

Cooter. See Couter.

Cop. A policeman. As verb. 1. To seize, steal, catch, take an unfair advantage in a bet or bargain. [Cop has been associated with the root of the Latin *cap-io*, to seize, to snatch; also with the Gipsy *kap* or *cop* = to take; Scotch *kep*; and Gallic *ccapan*. Probably, however, its true radix is to be found in the Hebrew *cop*=a hand or palm. Low-class Jews employ the term, and understand it to refer to the act of snatching.] Cop like Chuck (q.v.), is a sort of general utility verb: thus *to cop the needle*, to get angry; *to cop the bullet* (or *the door*), to get the sack; and to *cop the brewer*, to be drunk. 2. To arrest, imprison, betray, ensnare. English synonyms: to give the clinch, to make one kiss the clink, to accommodate, to nobble, to bag, to box, to fist (old), to scoop, to take up, to victimize, to run in, to give (or get) one the boat, to buckle, to smug, to nab, to collar, to pinch, to nail, to rope in, to snake, to pull up.

Copbusy. To hand over booty to a confederate.

Copper. A policeman.

Copperheads. A nickname applied to different sections of the American nation; first to the Indian; then to the Dutch colonist (see Irving, *Knickerbocker*); lastly, during the Civil War, to certain Northern Democrats who sympathised with the South.

Copperman. A policeman.

Copper-nose. A swollen, pimply nose, a jolly or bottle nose; Fr., *bette-rave, piton passé à l'encaustique*: cf. Grogblossom (1822).

Copper's-nark. A police spy, one in the pay of the police.

Copus. A wine or beer cup: commonly imposed as a fine upon those who talked Latin in hall or committed other breaches of etiquette. Dr. Johnson derives it from *episcopus*, and if this be correct it is doubtless the same as bishop.

Copy-of-countenance. A sham, humbug, pretence (1579).

Core (Coreing). Picking up small articles in shops (1821).

Corinth. A brothel (1609). Hence, *Corinthian*. 1. A rake, loose liver, sometimes specifically, a fashionable whore. Shakespeare has it, 'a lad of mettle,' but in another place he uses Corinth as above. 2. A dandy, specifically applied in the early part of the present century to a man of fashion; e.g. *Corinthian* Tom, in Pierce Egan's *Life in London*.

Cork. 1. A bankrupt. 2. A general name in Glasgow and neighbourhood for the head of an establishment, e.g. of a factory, or the like. *To draw a cork*, to draw blood; to tap one's claret (1818).

Cork-brained. Light headed, foolish.

Corker. 1. That which closes an argument, or puts an end to a course of action; a settler; a finisher (q.v.); specifically a lie: cf. Whopper. 2. Anything unusually large, or of first-rate quality; remarkable in some respect or another; e.g. a heavy blow; a monstrous lie. *To play the corker*, to indulge in the uncommon, exhibit exaggerated peculiarities of demeanour: specifically in school and university slang to make oneself objectionable to one's fellows.

Corks. 1. A butler: cf. Burncrust, a baker; Master of the mint, a gardener; Cinder-garbler, a maid-of-all-work, etc. 2. (nautical). Money: see Rhino.

Corkscrewing. The straggling, spiral walk of tipsiness.

Corkscrews. Very stiff and formal curls, once called Bottle-screws.

Corky. Sprightly, lively. Shakespeare uses it in King Lear, III. vii. *Com.*, Bind fast his corky arms; but with him (1605) it=withered.

Corn. 1. Food, sustenance, grub (q.v.). 2. An abbreviated form of corn-juice (q.v.), i.e. whisky (1843). *To acknowledge the corn*: see Acknowledge.

Corned. 1. Drunk: see Screwed (1785). 2. (sailors'), pleased.

Corner. 1. Tattersall's Subscription Rooms, once situate at the top of Grosvenor Place, near Hyde Park Corner; now removed to Albert Gate, but still known by the old nickname. 2. Short for Tattenham Corner, a point on the Derby course on Epsom Downs. 3. A share; an opportunity of standing in for the proceeds of a robbery. As verb, to get control of a stock or commodity and so monopolize the market; applied to persons, to drive or force into a position of difficulty or surrender, e.g. in an argument; also as subs., a monopoly, a controlling interest. Fr., *être en fine pégrène*, and *se mettre sur les fonts de baptême*. Tailors speak of a man as cornered who has pawned work entrusted to him, and cannot redeem it. *To be round the corner*, to get round or ahead of one's fellows by dishonest cuts, doublings, twists, and turns. *To* *turn the corner*, to get over the worst, begin to mend in health and fortune. *To be cornered*, to be in a fix: Fr., *être dans le lac.*

Corner-man (or **Cove**). 1. A loafer; literally a lounger at corners (1851). 2. The 'Bones' and 'Tambourine' in a band of negro minstrels.

Corn-in-Egypt. Plenty of all kinds. [Biblical.]

Cornish-duck. A pilchard: cf. Yarmouth capon.

Corn-juice. Whisky: see Drinks.

Cornstalk. Generic (Australian) for persons of European descent, but especially applied to girls. The children of Anglo-Australians are generally taller and slighter in build than their parents. Originally a native of New South Wales; now general. Cf. Bananalander.

Cornstealers. The hands.

Corny-faced. Red and pimply with drink.

Coroner. A severe fall.

Corporation. A protuberant stomach: see Bread-basket (1785).

Corpse. A horse in the betting for market purposes alone; otherwise a stiff'un. Verb, 1. To confuse, queer, blunder, and so put out one's fellows, to spoil a scene. 2. To kill (literally to make a corpse of one). Fr., *parler sur quelqu'un.*

Corpse-provider. A doctor or physician: see Crocus.

Corpse-reviver. A mixed drink.

Correct (or **K'rect Card**). See Card.

Corroboree. A disturbance. [Properly a tremendous native dance.] Verb, to boil.

Corsican. Something out of the common; a buster. [A Burnandism.]

Corybungus. The posteriors.

Cosh. A 'neddy,' a life-preserver; a short, loaded bludgeon. Also a policeman's truncheon.

Cossack. A policeman.

Costard. The head. [Properly an apple.] See Crumpet (1534).

Cotch. To catch. [A corruption.] Also ppl. adj., Cotched.

Cot (Christ's Hospital). A shoe-string.

Cotsold (or **Cotswold Lion**). A sheep: see Wool-bird (1615).

Cotton. To take a fancy to, unite with, agree with. In the last sense it is found occasionally in the Elizabethan writers, and is American by survival. *To die with cotton in one's ears*: Many of the most hardened and desperate offenders, from the kindness, attention, and soothing conduct of the Rev. Mr. Cotton [the chaplain at Newgate, 1821], who is indefatigable in administering consolation to their troubled minds, have become the most sincere penitents (Egan, *Tom and Jerry*). This was by no means the only instance of a popular punning allusion to the name of Cotton. The Jesuit Father Coton, having obtained a great ascendency over Henri IV., it was remarked by that monarch's subjects that, unfortunately, his ears were stuffed with cotton.

Cotton-lord (or **king**). A wealthy cotton manufacturer.

Cottonopolis. Manchester: cf. Albertopolis, Cubitopolis, Hygeiapolis.

Cottons (Stock Exchange). Confederate Bonds. [From the staple of the Southern States.]

Cotton-top. A woman loose in fact, but keeping up some sort of appearance. [In allusion to cotton stockings with silk feet.]

Couch. *To couch a hogshead*, to lie down and sleep (1569).

Councillor of the Pipowder Court. A pettifogging lawyer. [The Pipowder Court was one held at fairs where justice was done to any injured person before the dust of the fair was off his feet; the name being derived from the French *pié poudré.* Some, however, think that it had its origin in *pied-pouldreux*, a pedlar, and signifies a pedlars' court.

Council-of-ten. The toes of a man who walks Duck-footed (q.v.): cf. Ten commandments: Fr., *arpions.*

Counsellor. A barrister: Fr., *gerbier.*

Count. A man of fashion, a swell.

Counter. To strike while parrying. Figuratively, to oppose, to circumvent. *Another lie nailed to the counter*: see Another.

Counterfeit-cranke. 'These that do counterfet the cranke be yong knaves and yonge harlots, that deeply dissemble the falling sickness' (*Harman*). Hence, a cheat.

Counter-jumper (or **skipper**). A draper's assistant, a shopman: Fr., *chevalier du mètre*: see Knight of the yard: also Counter-jump, to act as a shop-assistant, and Counter-jumping, verbal subs. (1855).

Count. See Noses.

Country. That part of the ground at a great distance from the wicket; thus, a fielder at deep-long-off, or long-on is said to be in the *country*, and a ball hit to the far boundary, is hit into the *country*.

Country-put. An ignorant, country fellow: see Joskin. (1717).

County-crop. The hair cut close to the skull; a mode once common to all prisoners, but now to convicts only: also *prison-crop*.

Couple (or Buckle) beggar. A celebrant of irregular marriages—as the Chaplain of the Fleet; a hedge priest (1737).

Coupling-house. A brothel.

Couranne. See Caroon.

Court-card. A beau, swell.

Court Holy Water (or Court Promises). Fair speeches without performance.

Cousin Betty. A half-witted person: see Buffle.

Cousin-trumps. One of a kind, Brother smut, Brother chip.

Couter (or Cooter). A sovereign: see Rhino.

Cove (Covey, Cofe, Cuffing, and, in the feminine, Covess). 1. A person; a companion. *Cove* enters into many combinations: e.g. Cross-cove, a robber; Flash-cove, a thief or swindler; Kinchin-cove, a little man; Flogging-cove, a beadle; Smacking-cove, a coachman; Narry-cove, a drunkard; Topping-cove, a highwayman; Abram-cove, a beggar; Queer-cove, a rogue; Nubbing-cove, the hangman; Gentry-cove, a gentleman; Downy-cove, shrewd man; Rum-cove, a doubtful character; Nib-cove, a gentleman, etc., etc., etc., all which see. English synonyms: boy, chap, cull, cully, customer, kiddy, homo (or omee), fish, put, bloke, gloak, party, cuss, codger, buffer, gaffer, damber, duck, chip. [For examples of the use of Covey and Covess, see same.] 2. In up-country Australian, the master, boss, or gaffer of a sheep station. *Cove of dossing-ken*, the landlord of a common lodging-house: Fr., *marchand de sommeil*.

Covent Garden. A 'farden' or farthing.

Covent-garden Abbess. A procuress. [Covent Garden at one time teemed with brothels: as Fielding's *Covent Garden Tragedy* (1751-2) suggests].

Covent-garden Ague. A venereal disease.

Covent-garden Nun. A prostitute.

Coventry. *To send one to* (or to *be in*) *Coventry*, to exclude from social intercourse, or notice; to be in disgrace.

Cover. A pickpocket's confederate: one who 'fronts,' i.e. distracts the attention of, the victim; a stall (q.v.). As verb, 1. To act as a pickpocket's confederate. 2. To drink: see Lush.

Cover-arse Gown. A gown without sleeves (1803).

Cover-down. An obsolete term for a false tossing coin: see Cap.

Cover-me-decently. A coat (1821).

Covess. A woman: see Cove. (1789).

Covey. A man: a diminutive of cove (q.v.).

Cow. 1. A woman. The term is now opprobrious; but in its primary and natural sense the usage is ancient. Howell [1659] says: 'There are some proverbs that carry a kind of authority with them, as that which began in Henrie the Fourth's time. "He that bulls the cow must keep the calf."' 2. A prostitute. 3. A thousand pounds: see Rhino. *To talk the hind leg off a cow* (or *dog*): see Talk. *Tune the cow died of*: see Tune.

Cowan. A sneak, a Paul Pry.

Cow-and-calf. To laugh.

Coward's-castle (or Corner). A pulpit.

Cowcumber. A corruption of cucumber.

Cow-grease (or Cow-oil). Butter: see Cart-grease.

Cow-juice. Milk.

Cow-lick. A lock of hair, greased, curled, brought forward from the ear, and plastered on the cheek: once common amongst costermongers and tramps: see Aggerawators.

Cow-oil. Cow-grease.

Cow-puncher. A cowboy or herdsman.

Cow-quake. The roar of a bull.

Cows-and-kisses. The missus, or mistress; also women generally.

Cow's-baby (or **babe**) A calf, Bleating-cheat (q.v.).

Cow-shooter (Winchester College). A deerstalker hat: only worn by præfects and candle-keepers.

Cow's-spouse. A bull (*Grose*).

Cow-with-the-iron-tail. A pump; the source of the 'cooling medium' for 'regulating' milk: also Black-cow, One-armed man, and Simpson's cow (q.v.).

Coxy. Stuck up, conceited, impudent (1856).

Coyduck. To decoy. [A blend of *conduct* and *decoy*.] (1829).

Cozza. Pork.

Crab. 1. The same as bonnet (q.v.) subs., sense 1. 2. In pl., the feet. 3. A pair of aces, or deuce-ace—the lowest throw at hazard (1768). Verb, to expose, inform, offend, insult; and especially to interrupt, to get in the way of, to spoil. *To turn out crabs* (or *a case of crabs*), a matter turns out crabs when it is brought to a disagreeable conclusion. *To catch a crab* (*to cut a crab*, *to catch* or *cut a cancer* or *lobster*), there are various ways of catching a crab, as, for example (1) to turn the blade of the oar or 'feather' under water at the end of the stroke, and thus be unable to recover; (2) to lose control of the oar at the middle of the stroke by digging too deeply; or (3) to miss the water altogether.

Crab-louse. The *pulex pubis*, the male whereof is called a cock, the female a hen (*Grose*).

Crabshells. Shoes.

Crack. 1. A crazy person: softhead: see Buffle (1609). 2. A prostitute (1698). 3. A lie: also Cracker. 4. A burglary. 5. A burglar (1749). 6. An approach to perfection (1825). 7. A racehorse eminent for speed, and (hunting), a famous 'mount.' 8. Dry firewood. Adj., approaching perfection: used in a multitude of combinations. A *crack* hand is an adept or dabster; a *crack* corps, a brilliant regiment; a *crack* whip, good coachman; etc. (1836). Verb, 1. To talk to, boast. [The verb was once good English, and in the sense of to talk or gossip is still good Scots. The modern form *to crack up*, is well within the borderland between literary and colloquial English (1597). 2. To force open, to commit a burglary. 3. To forge or utter worthless paper. 4. To fall to ruin, to be impaired (1631). 5. To inform; to peach (q.v.). *To crack a bottle* (or *a quart*), to drink (1598). *To crack a crib* (*swag*, or *ken*), to commit a burglary; to break into a house. English synonyms: to stamp a ken or crib, to work a panny, to jump a house (also applied to simple robbery without burglary), to do a crack, to practise the black art, to screw, to bust a crib, to flimp, to buz, to tool, to wire, to do a ken-crack-lay. *To crack a crust*, to rub along in the world: a superlative for doing very well is, *to crack a tidy crust*. *To crack a whid*, to talk. *To crack on*, to put on speed, increase one's pace. *To crack up*, to praise, eulogize: a superlative is *to crack up to the nines*: Fr., *faire l'article*, and *faire son boniment* (or *son petit boniment*). *The crack* (or *all the crack*), the go (q.v.), the thing, the kick, the general craze of the moment. *In a crack*, instantaneously, in the twinkling of an eye (1725).

Cracked (or **Cracked-up**). 1. Ruined, bust up, gone to smash (or to pot). 2. Crazy. 3. Deflowered: also Cracked in the ring.

Cracker. Anything approaching perfection: used in both a good and bad sense; e.g. a rattling pace, a large sum of money, a bad fall, an enormous lie, a dandy (male or female) of the first magnitude, and so forth.

Cracky. See Crickey.

Crack-halter (or **Crack-rope**). A vagabond; an old equivalent of jail-bird: cf. Hemp-seed (1566).

Cracking. House-breaking.

Crackish. Wanton, said only of women: cf. Coming.

Crack-jaw Words (Names, etc.). Long words difficult to pronounce.

Crackle (or **Crackling**). The velvet bars on the gowns of the Johnian 'hogs' (q.v.).

Crackmans (or **Cragmans**). A hedge (1610).

Crack (or **Break**) **One's Egg** (or **Duck**. To begin to score. [To make no run is to lay, or make, a duck's egg; to make none in either innings is to get a double-duck, or to come off with a pair of spectacles.]

Crack-pot. A pretentious, worthless person.

Crack-rope. See Crack-halter.

Cracksman. A housebreaker.

Cradle, Altar, and Tomb Column. The births, marriages, and deaths column in a newspaper: also Hatch, Match, and Dispatch column.

Crag. See Scrag.

Cram. 1. A lie; also Crammer. 2. Hard, forced study. 3. One who prepares another for an examination, a coach, a grindstone. 4. An adventitious aid to study, a translation, a crib. Verb, 1. To study at high pressure for an examination: also to prepare one for examination (1803). 2. To lie, deceive (1794).

Crammer. 1. A liar, one who tells Crams (q.v.). 2. A lie; the same as cram. 3. One who prepares men for examination, a coach, grinder (q.v.) (1812).

Cramming. The act of studying hard for an examination.

Cramped (or Crapped). Hanged; also killed.

Cramping-cull. The hangman.

Cramp in the Hand. Meanness, stinginess.

Cramp-rings. Bolts, shackles, fetters. [Properly a ring of gold or silver, which after being blessed by the sovereign, was held a specific for cramp and falling-sickness.] (1609).

Cramp-words. 1. Hard, unpronounceable vocables, Crackjaw words (q.v.) (1748). 2. Sentence of death (1748).

Cranberry-eye. A blood-shot eye; the result of alcoholism.

Crank. 1. 'These that do counterfet the cranke be yong knaues and yonge harlots, that deeply dissemble the falling sicknes. For the crank in their language is the fallinge evill' (*Harman*). Also Cranke and Crank-cuffin. 2. Gin and water (*Grose*). 3. An eccentric, a crotcheteer. Adj., Easily upset: e.g. The skiff is very crank.

Crank-cuffin. One of the canting-crew whose specialty was to feign sickness: see Crank.

Cranky. Crotchetty, whimsical, ricketty, not to be depended upon, crazy. English synonyms: dicky, maggotty, dead-alive, yappy, touched, chumpish, comical, dotty, rocketty, queer, faddy, fadmongering, twisted, funny.

Crap. 1. Money; sometimes crop: see Rhino. 2. The gallows: see Nubbing Cheat. 3. Type that has got mixed; technically known as 'pi.' Verb, 1. To hang; to be cropped, to be hanged. 2. To ease oneself by evacuation: see Mrs. Jones.

Crapping-casa (case, castle, or ken). A water-closet.

Crapping-castle. A night stool: see previous entry.

Crash. 1. Entertainment: probably a cant word (*Nares*). 2. The machine used to suggest the roar of thunder; a noise of desperate (and unseen) conflict; an effect of 'alarums excursions' generally. Verb, to kill.

Crashing-cheats (or chetes). 1. The teeth (1567). 2. 'Appels, peares, or any other fruit' (*Harman*).

Crater (Cratur, or Creature). Formerly, any kind of liquor, now, Irish whisky. [Fuller speaks of water as 'a *creature* so common and needful,' and Bacon describes light as 'God's first creature.' Transition is easy.] *The skin of the creature*, the bottle: see Drinks (1598).

Crawl. A workman who curries favour with a foreman or employer, a lickspittle.

Crawler. 1. A cab that leaves the rank and 'crawls' the street in search of fares. 2. A term of contempt, lickspittle.

Crawthumper. 1. Roman Catholic, 'the Pope's cockrels' (1629): also Brisket-beaters and, collectively, the Breast-fleet. 2. In America an Irishman or Dick, i.e. an Irish Catholic (1782).

Cream Cheese. *To make believe the moon is made of cream* (or *green*) *cheese*, to humbug, to deceive, to impose upon.

Cream-jugs (Stock Exchange). 1. Charkof-Krementschug Railway Bonds. 2. The paps.

Cream-of-the-valley, (also Cold Cream). Gin: cf. Mountain Dew, whisky.

Creamy. Excellent, first-rate: see A1.

Creation. *To beat* (or *lick*) *creation*, to overpower, excel, surpass, be incomparable.

Creeme. To slip or slide anything into the hands of another (*Grose*).

Creeper. One who cringes and curries favour, a skunk, a snide (q.v.).

Creepers. 1. The feet. English synonyms: dew-beaters, beetle-crushers, understandings, trotters, tootsies, stumps (also the legs), everlasting shoes, hocks, boot-trees, pasterns, ards (Old Cant now used as an adj. = hot), double-breasters, daisy-beaters, kickers, crabs, trampers, hockles, hoofs, pudseys. 2. Lice: see Chates.

Creeps. The peculiar thrill resulting from an undefinable sense of dread: Goose-flesh, Cold shivers, Cold water down the back (1836).

Crevecœur. See Heart-breaker.

Cri. The Criterion, theatre and restaurant, at Piccadilly Circus.

Crib. 1. The stomach (1656). 2. Generic for a place; e.g. a house, place of abode, apartments, lodgings, shop, warehouse, den, diggings, or snuggery (1598). 3. A situation, place, or berth. 4. A literal translation surreptitiously used by students; also a theft of any kind; specifically, anything copied without acknowledgment (1841). 5. A bed. Verb, (1) to steal, pilfer; used specifically of petty thefts: see Prig (1748). (2) To use a translation; to cheat at an examination; to plagiarise. *To crack a crib*, see Crack.

Cribbage-face (and **Cribbage-faced**). Pock-marked and like a cribbage-board, Colander-faced, Crumpet-faced, Pikelet-faced, Mockered (q.v.) (1785).

Cribber. A grumbler.

Cribbeys (or **Cribby-Islands**). Blind alleys, courts, and bye-ways.

Cribbing. 1. Food and drink, grub and booze (1656). 2. Stealing, purloining, using a translation.

Crib-biter. An inveterate grumbler. [Properly a horse that worries his crib, rack, manger, or groom, and at the same time draws in his breath so as to make the peculiar noise called wind-sucking.] Fr. *gourgousseur*, *un rême*, *renâcleur*, and *renaudeur*.

Crib-cracker. A housebreaker.

Crib-cracking Housebreaking.

Crikey! (**Cracky!** or **Cry!**) Formerly, a profane oath; now a mere expression of astonishment. [A corruption of 'Christ.']

Crimini (**Criminey**, or **Crimes!**) See Crikey. [Possibly influenced by *crimen meum*, my fault.] (1700).

Crimson. *To make things look crimson*, to go on a drunken frolic, *paint the town red* (q.v.).

Crincle-pouch. A sixpence: see Bender (1593).

Crinkums. A venereal disease.

Crinoline. A woman.

Cripple. 1. A 'snid' (Scots) or sixpence: see Rhino (1785). 2. An awkward oaf, a dullard: Fr., *malapatte*. *Go it, you cripples!* A sarcastic comment on strenuous effort; frequently used without much sense of fitness; e.g. when the person addressed is a capable athlete. Wooden legs are cheap, is sometimes added as an intensitive.

Crisp. A banknote: see Rhino.

Crispin. A shoemaker. [From Saints Crispin and Crispianus, the patrons of the 'gentle craft,' i.e. shoemaking.] *St. Crispin's lance*, an awl. *Crispin's holiday*, Monday: spec. 25th of October, being the anniversary of Crispinus and Crispianus.

Croak. A dying speech, especially the confession of a murderer. Also the same as printed for sale in the streets by a flying stationer (q.v.). Verb, to die: see Hop the Twig.

Croaker. 1. A sixpence: see Rhino. 2. A beggar. 3. A dying person. 4. A corpse. 5. The flesh of an animal which has died a natural death. 6. A doctor. 7. A person who sees everything *en noir*, and whose conversation is likened to that of the raven, the bird of ill-omen: see Goldsmith's *Good Natured Man*. Fr., *glas*.

Croakumshire. Northumberland. [*Grose*: from the particular croaking in the pronunciation of the people of that county, especially about Newcastle and Morpeth, where they are said to be born with a burr in their throats, which prevents their pronouncing the letter 'r.']

Crock. A worthless animal, a fool, rotter.

Crocketts (Winchester College). A kind of bastard cricket, sometimes called 'small crochetts.' Five stumps are used and a fives ball, with a bat of plain deal about two inches broad, or a broomstick. *To get crocketts*, to fail to score at cricket, to make a duck's egg.

Crocodile. A girl's school walking two and two.

Crocus (**Crocus-metallorum** or **Croakus**). A doctor; specifically, a quack. English synonyms: pill, squirt, butcher, croaker, corpse-provider, bolus, clyster, gallipot. [Several of these terms also=an apothecary.] (1785).

Crocus-chovey. A doctor's shop.

Crocus-pitcher. A quack ambulant.

Crocussing-rig, subs. (old). Travelling from place to place as a quack doctor.

Crone. A clown or buffoon.

Crook. 1. A sixpence: see Rhino. 2. A thief, swindler, one who gets things on the crook. *On the crook,* the antithesis of on the straight (q.v.): cf. Cross. *To crook* (or *cock*) *the elbow* (or the *little finger*), to drink. [Fr., *lever le coude*; a hard drinker is *un adroit du coude.*] See Lush.

Crook-back. A sixpenny piece, many of the slang names of which suggest a bashed and battered appearance; e.g. bender, cripple, crook: see Rhino.

Crooked. Disappointing, the reverse of straight (q.v.), pertaining to the habits, ways, and customs of thieves. *Crooked as a Virginia* (or *snake*) *fence,* uneven, zig-zag, said of matters or persons difficult to keep straight. *To make a Virginia fence,* to walk unsteadily, as a drunkard. Virginia fences zigzag with the soil.

Crooky. To hang on to, lead, walk arm-in-arm, court, or pay addresses to a girl.

Crop. See Crap.

Cropped. Hanged: see Ladder, and Topped (1781).

Cropper. A heavy fall or failure of any kind; generally 'to come a cropper.' [Originally hunting.]

Croppie (or Croppy). Originally applied to a criminal *cropped* in ears and nose by the public executioner; subsequently to convicts, in allusion to closely cropped hair; hence any person with hair cut close to the head; e.g. the Puritans and the Irish Rebels of 1789.

Croppled. *To be croppled* (Winchester College), to fail in an examination; to be sent down at a lesson.

Croppy. See Croppie.

Crops. *To go and look at the crops,* to consult Mrs. Jones (q.v.).

Cross. 1. A pre-arranged swindle. In its special sporting signification a cross is an arrangement to lose on the part of one of the principals in a fight, or any kind of match. When both principals conspire that one shall win, it is called a Double cross (q.v.). [Obviously a shortened form of Cross-bite. 2. A thief; also Cross-man, Cross-cove, Cross-chap, squire (knight, or lad) of the cross, etc. Literally a man *on the cross* (see sense 1).] As verb, to play false in a match of any kind. Hence to thwart, baffle, spoil (1709). *Cross in the air,* a rifle carried butt-end upwards. *To shake the cross,* to quit the cross (sense 1) and go *on the square* (q.v.). *To be crossed,* thus explained in a University Guide:—For not paying term bills to the bursar (treasurer), or for cutting chapels, or lectures, or other offences, an undergrad can be crossed at the buttery, or kitchen, or both, i.e. a *cross* is put against his name by the Don, who wishes to see him, or to punish him. *On the cross,* the opposite of on the square (q.v.): cf. On the crook.

Cross-belts. The Eighth Hussars. [The regiment wears the sword belt over the right shoulder in memory of the battle of Saragossa, where it took the belts of the Spanish cavalry. This privilege was confirmed by the King's Regulations of 1768.

Cross-bite. See Cross-biting. As verb, to cheat, scold, hoax. [Nares thinks it a compound of cross and bite. It has suffered a double abbreviation, both its components being used substantively and verbally in the same sense.] See Stiff (1581).

Cross-biter. A cheat, swindler, hoaxer: Fr., *goureur* (1592).

Cross-biting. A deception, cheat, hoax (1576).

Cross-buttock. A throw in wrestling. Also as verb and verbal subs. (1690).

Cross-crib. A thieves' dossing-ken (q.v.): or Lush-crib (q.v.): also Cross-drum.

Cross-fan (or Cross-fam). Robbery from the person done with one hand (fam) across, dissembling the action of the other. As verb, to rob from the person.

Cross-kid (or Cross-quid). To question, cross-examine: Fr., *faire la jactance,* also *faire saigner du nez.*

Cross-patch, subs. (colloquial). An ill-natured, ill-tempered person: cf. old nursery rhyme: 'Cross-patch, draw the latch, Sit by the fire and spin' (1785).

Crow. 1. A confederate on watch whilst another steals: generally a man, but occasionally a woman: the latter is also called a Canary (q.v.).

2. A piece of unexpected luck; a fluke: generally *a regular crow*. [Originally billiards, in which it=a hazard not played for, i.e. a fluke; no doubt a corruption of the Fr., *raccroc*.] 3. A parson. *To eat crow*: see Broiled crow. *A crow to pluck* (*pull*, or *pick*) *with one*, something demanding explanation: a misunderstanding to clear; a disagreeable matter to settle: sometimes, a bone to pick (1593).

Crowd. A fiddle.

Crowder. 1. A large audience. 2. A fiddler.

Crow-eater. A lazybones who prefers subsisting upon what he can pick up, as crows do, to putting himself to the trouble of working for it.

Crow-fair. A gathering of clergymen.

Crown. To inspect a window with a view to burglary.

Crown-office. The head (1785).

Crow's-foot. The Government broad arrow; also (in pl.) wrinkles at the outside corners of the eyes.

Cruel (or **Cruelly**). Extremely, very, great (1662).

Cruelty-van (or **Booby-hutch**). A four-wheeled chaise.

Crug (Christ's Hospital). 1. At Hertford, a crust; in the London school, crust and crumb alike (1820). Hence, 2. a Blue (q.v.): especially an old boy.

Cruganaler (Christ's Hospital). A biscuit given on St. Matthew's Day. [Orthography dubious. Blanch inclines to the following derivation: 'The biscuit had once something to do with those nights when bread and beer, with cheese, were substituted for bread-and-butter and milk. Thence the term "crug and aler." The only argument against this is the fact that the liquid was never dignified with the name of ale, but was invariably called "the swipes." By another derivation="hard as nails." It is then spelt Cruggy-nailer.']

Cruggy (Christ's Hospital). Hungry.

Cruisers. 1. Beggars, or highway spies: those who traversed the road (*Grose*) to give intelligence of a booty; also, rogues ready to snap up any booty that may offer. 2. In sing., a street-walker.

Crumb. A pretty woman: cf. Crummy.

Crumb-and-crust Man. A baker: cf. Burn-crust and Master of the rolls: Fr., *marchand de larton*.

Crummy. 1. Fat, plump, well-developed: especially said of high-bosomed and full-figured women: e.g. a crummy piece of goods. Fr., *fort en mie* (an almost literal translation) (1748). 2. (American), comely. 3. Lousy. Hence, *Crummy-doss*, a lousy bed. 4. (thieves'). Plump in the pockets.

Crump (Winchester College). A hard hit, a fall: as a verb, to cob (q.v.).

Crumpet. The head. English synonyms: brain-pan, nut, chump, jazey, steeple, tib or tibby, weather-cock, turnip, upper extremity, top end, twopenny, upper storey, canister, attic, garret, costard, sconce, bonce, nob, lolly, lobb, knowledge-box, block, cocoa-nut, Crown-Office, calabash, top-knot, crust, chimney-pot, onion, chevy, cockloft, top-flat, gable, pumpkin, hat-peg, billiard ball, upper-crust, mazzard, cabaza, dome. *Balmy in one's crumpet*: see Balmy.

Crumpet-face. A pock-pitted face, a cribbage-face (q.v.).

Crumpet-scramble. A tea party, tea-fight, muffin-worry, muffin-fight, bitch-party, or cooky-shine (q.v.).

Crumpler. 1. A cravat. 2. A fall.

Crush. A large social gathering (1854). As verb, to run away, decamp: see Bunk. *To crush down sides*, to keep tryst, also to run to a place of safety. *To crush* (or *burst*) *a pot* (*cup*, or *bottle*) to drink in company.

Crusher. 1. A policeman: cf. Crush! once a favourite signal of the pea, thimble, and other race-course sharps warning of the approach of the police. 2. Anything large, fine, or extraordinary: cf. Whopper, Stinger, Corker, Bouncer, etc. (q.v.).

Crushing. Excellent, first-rate.

Crust (or **Upper Crust**). The head: see Crumpet. *Upper-crust* (q.v.).

Crusty-beau. One that uses paint and cosmetics to obtain a fine complexion (*Grose*).

Cry. A large number, a quantity. [From cry, a pack of dogs.] *Great cry and little wool*, much ado about nothing. The original text of the proverb was, *Great cry and little wool*, as the devil said when he sheared the hogs. Hudibras alters it into All cry and no wool. *To cry carrots and turnips*, a term which rogues use for whipping at the cart's arse (*Johnson*, 1747). *To cry* (or *call*) *a go*, to give in, as one unable to proceed. An expression borrowed from cribbage signifying that the player who makes use of it has nothing playable in his hand, and is compelled to cry a go. *To cry cupboard*, to be famished, hungry, banded (q.v.): Fr., *rien dans le cornet, le buffet vide*, and *danser devant le buffet*. *Cry matches!* an exclamation of surprise. [Variously derived: (1) a corruption of 'Crime hatches'; (2) cry = *XPI* or Christ, no suggestion being offered to account for 'matches'; and (3) a conversion of the Fr. *cré matin*, presumably Canadian: cf. Crimini.] *To cry off*, to retreat, back out from an engagement. See Stinking fish.

C.T.A. (Circus and showmen's). The police.

Cub (or **Unlicked-cub**). An awkward, sulky girl; a mannerless, uncouth lout of a boy. [In allusion to the supposed shapelessness of bear cubs till their dam has 'licked them into shape.']

Cubitopolis. The Warwick and Eccleston Square districts. [From the name of the builders.] Cf. Albertopolis, Mesopotamia, Asia Minor, The New Jerusalem, Slopers' Island, etc. (q.v.).

Cuckoo. 1. A fool: see Buffle. (1598). 2. A cuckold (1594). 3. In pl., generic for money: see Rhino. (1612).

Cucumber-time. The dull season. [A correspondent of *Notes and Queries* says it is of German origin, and originated among London tailors of German nationality. The German phrase is *die saure Gurken Zeit* (pickled gherkin-time). Hence, it is said, the expression 'Tailors are vegetarians,' because they live now on 'cucumber' and now on 'cabbage'] (*Grose*).

Cud. A chew of tobacco, a quid. As adj., (Winchester College). 1. Pretty, handsome. 2. (Christ's Hospital), severe: see Cuddy.

Cuddie. A donkey.

Cuddling. Wrestling.

Cuddy (Christ's Hospital). Hard, difficult, said of a lesson. Also *Hertfordicé* for Passy (q.v.).

Cue. To swindle on credit.

Cuff. 1. A foolish old man. Probably a contraction of Cuffin (q.v.) (1678). 2. (tailors'). A religious man. *To cuff Anthony*: see Anthony. *To beat* or *cuff Jonas*: see Beat.

Cuffer. 1. A lie, an exaggerated and improbable story. Hence, *to spin cuffers*, to yarn, draw the long bow (q.v.). 2. A man: see Cove.

Cuffin (**Cuffen**, or **Cuffing**). A man (*Harman*, 1567). *Queer-cuffin*, a magistrate (1609).

Cuff-shooter. A beginner, one who gives himself airs; literally one who shoots his cuffs: having a greater regard for the display of his linen than for his work.

Cule (**Cull**, **Culing**, **Culling**). To purloin: espec. from the seats of carriages; the act of snatching hand-bags and other articles. [Probably an abbreviation of reticule.]

Cull (or **Cully**). A man, companion, partner. Specifically, a fool, one tricked or imposed upon. Grose seems to make a distinction, for he quotes cull = 'a man honest or otherwise,' and cully = 'a fop, fool, or dupe to women,' in which sense it was current in the seventeenth century. *Rum cull*, the manager of a theatre; also a Cully-gorger.

Culls. The *testes* (1600).

Culminate. To mount a coach-box (1803).

Cummer. An intimate.

Cup-and-saucer Player. A term of derision applied to players of the late T. W. Robertson's comedies.

Cupboard-love. Interested affection: cf. old saw, The way to a man's heart is through his stomach (1661).

Cups. *In one's cups*, drunk: cf. Cup-shot and Screwed (1593).

Cup-tosser. A juggler.

Curate. A small poker, or tickler (q.v.), used to save a better one; also a pocket-handkerchief in actual use as against a flimsy one worn for show. The better article is a Rector. Similarly when a tea-cake is split and buttered, the bottom half, which gets the more butter, is the Rector, and the upper half the Curate.

Curb. To steal: see Prig. (1615).

Curbstone-broker. See Guttersnipe.

Curbstone-sailor. A prostitute: see Tart.

Cure, subs. (common). An eccentric, fool, funny fellow. Originally applied in many connections, see *Punch*, xxxi. 201 (1856).

Curious. *To do curious*, to act strangely.

Curl. *Out of curl*, out of sorts; out of condition. *To curl up*, to be silent, 'shut up.' *To curl one's hair*, to administer chastisement, 'go for' one. *To curl one's liver* (or *to have one's liver curled*), to make one feel intensely.

Curle. Clippings of money (*Grose*).

Curl-paper. Paper for the W.C., toilet paper, 'wipe-bummatory' (Urquhart), or 'sanitary' paper, bumfodder, bumf, ammunition.

Curlycues (or **Carlicues**). Fantastic ornaments worn on the person or used in architecture; also, by implication, a strange line of conduct.

Currants-and-plums. A threepenny bit, thrums (q.v.).

Currency. A colonist born in Australia, those of English birth being sterling (q.v.).

Curse. *Not to care* (or *be worth*) *a curse*, to care (or be worth) little—or nothing at all (1362).

Curse-of-God. A cockade (*Lexicon Balatronicum*).

Curse of Scotland. The nine of diamonds. The suggested derivations are inconclusive. [The locution has nothing to do with Culloden and the Duke of Cumberland, for the card was nicknamed the Justice-Clerk, in allusion to the Lord Justice-Clerk Ormistone, who, for his severity in suppressing the Rebellion of 1715, was called the Curse of Scotland. Other suggestions are: (1) That it is derived from the game of Pope Joan, the nine of diamonds there being called the 'pope,' of which the Scotch have always stood in horror. (2) The word 'curse' is a corruption of *cross*, and the nine of diamonds is so arranged as to form a St. Andrew's Cross. (3) That it refers to the arms of Dalrymple, Earl of Stair (viz. or, on saltire azure, nine lozenges of the field), who was held in abhorrence for the massacre of Glencoe; or to Colonel Packer, who attended Charles I. on the scaffold, and had for his arms nine lozenges conjoined, or in the heraldic language, gules, a cross of lozenges. These conflicting views were discussed at length in *Notes and Queries*, 1 S., i. 61, 90; iii. 22, 253, 423, 483; v. 619; 3 S., xii. 24, 96; 4 S., vi. 194, 289; also, see *Chambers' Encyclopædia*.]

Cursitor (or **Cursetor**). A tramp or vagabond.

Curtain-raiser. A short 'piece' to bring up the curtain: Fr., *lever de rideau*.

Curtall (or **Curtail**). A vagabond or thief: 'A curtall is much like to the Vpright man, but hys authority is not fully so great. He vseth commonly to go with a short cloke, like to grey Friars, and his woman with him in like liuery, which he calleth his altham if she be hys' (*Awdeley*, 1560). 'Thieves who cut off pieces of stuff hanging out of shop windows; the tails of women's gowns, etc.; also thieves wearing short jackets' (*Grose*, 1785). As verb, to cut off.

Cuse (Winchester College). A book in which a record is kept of the 'marks' in each division: its name to dons is 'classicus paper'; also used for the weekly order.

Cushion. To hide, conceal, Stall off (q.v.), Stow (q.v.), Slum (q.v.). *To deserve the cushion*, on the birth of a child a man was said *to deserve the cushion*; i.e. the symbol of rest from labour.

Cushion-smiter (or **-thumper**). A clergyman.

Cuss. A man, Cove (q.v.), or Cull (q.v.): generally, but not necessarily, disparaging. *To cuss out*, to talk down, flummox by the lip (q.v.).

Cussedness. Generally in such phrases as, pure *cussedness*, the *cussedness* of things, etc. Mischievousness, or resolution, or courage may be implied; but in the Coventry plays *cursydnesse* signified sheer wickedness and malignity.

Customer. A man, fellow, cove, cuss, or chap: with a certain qualification, e.g. an ugly *customer* = a dangerous opponent; a queer *customer* = a suspicious person, one to be suspected; a rum *customer* = an odd fish.

Custom-house Officer. An aperient pill: cf. Chimney-sweep.

Cut. 1. A stage or degree: e.g. a *cut* above one. 2. A refusal to acknowledge acquaintance, or to associate with another person; a snub.

A cut direct (or *dead cut*) is a conspicuous non-acknowledgment of an acquaintance. 3. Mutilation of the book of a play, opera, etc. (1779). As adj., tipsy ; *on the cut*, on the spree : see Screwed (1748). As verb, 1. To talk (1567): To cut benle, to speake gentle ; to cut bene whydds, to speake or give good words ; to cutte quyer whyddes, to geue euil words or evil language. 2. To disown, ignore, or avoid associating with, a person : sometimes *cut dead*. An article in the *Monthly Magazine* for 1798 cites cut as a current peculiarity of expression, and says that some had tried to change it into 'spear,' but had failed. 3. To depart more or less hurriedly and perforce. Also to *cut and run*, *cut it*, *cut one's lucky*, *cut one's stick*, *cut off*, *cut away*, etc. [Originally nautical—to cut the cable and run before the wind.] (1570). 4. To compete in business ; to undersell. A *cutting* trade is one where profits are reduced to a minimum. Also *cut under*. 5. To excel. Also *cut out*. 6. To strike out portions of a dramatic production, so as to shorten it for representation. 7. To avoid, absent oneself from. Thus, to *cut lecture, to cut chapel, to cut hall, to cut gates* (1794) are common phrases. *To cut a caper* or *capers*, to play a trick or prank, behave boisterously or fantastically (1692). *To cut a dash, splash* (or *shine*), to make a show, attract attention through some idiosyncrasy of manner, appearance, or conduct. In the United States to *cut a splurge* (or *a swathe*), Fr., *flamber, faire du flafla*, and *faire flouer* (1771). *To cut a figure*, to make an appearance, good or bad (1759). *To cut and come again*, to have plenty : i.e. if one cut does not suffice, plenty remains to come at again (1738). *To cut* (or *cut up*) *didoes* (*shindies, shines*, etc.), to play pranks or tricks, to cut capers. *To cut dirt* (or *cut one's stick, lucky*), to make off, escape. *To cut fine*, to narrow down to a minimum. *To cut in*, to join in suddenly and without ceremony, intrude, chip in (q.v.). Also substantively (1819). *To cut into* (Winchester College), originally to hit one with a 'ground ash.' The office was exercised by Bible-clerks upon a 'man' kicking up a row when 'up to books.' Now generally used in the sense of to correct in a less formal manner than Tunding (q.v.). *To cut it*, to move off quickly, run away, cut dirt (q.v.). As intj., Cease! Stow it! Stash it! A forcible injunction to desist and be off. Also *cut that!* or simply *cut!* *To cut it fat*, to show off, make a display, come it strong, put on side, cut a dash (q.v.). *To cut mutton*, to partake of one's hospitality, to break bread with one. *To cut off one's head* (American political) used of an official when his term of office has come to an end through change of Government, or supercession in other ways. *The cut of one's jib*, the general appearance. *To cut one's cart*, to expose a trick. *To cut one's comb*, to snub, lower conceit (1593). *To cut one's eyes*, to get suspicious. *To cut one's eye* (or *wisdom*) *teeth*, to learn what's what. *To cut one's own grass*, to get one's own living, paddle one's own canoe. *To cut out*, to debar, deprive of advantage, supersede (1779). *To cut out of*, to do out of. *To cut saucy* : see Saucy. *To cut short* (generally cut it short!) a common injunction not to be prolix, Stow it! *To cut the line* (*rope*, or *string*), to cut a story short, stop yarning. *To cut the painter* (1) to decamp, make off—secretly and suddenly. (2) To die : see Hop the twig. *To cut up*, to run down, to mortify (1759). (2) To come up, turn up, become, show up. (3) To divide plunder, to share, to nap the regulars (1779). (4) To behave. *To cut up fat*, to leave a large fortune (1824). *To cut up rough* (*rusty, savage, stiff, ugly*), to become quarrelsome or dangerous. *To be cut up*, to be vexed, hurt, dejected : sometimes simply *cut*. Formerly, to be in embarrassed circumstances (1821).

Cut-away. A morning coat. [As compared with a frock coat.]

Cute. Sharp, clever, 'fly to wot's wot.' Fr., *avoir le nez creux* (1748).

Cuts. Scissors. *Small-cuts* = button-hole scissors.

Cutter. A thief, bully. This ancient cant word now survives in the phrase, to swear like a cutter (1589).

Cutting. 1. The process of underselling ; competition of the keenest kind. 2. Disowning or ignoring a person.

Cuttle (or **Cuttle-bung**). A knife used by cut-purses (1592).

Cutty-eyed. Suspicious looking, leering.

Cutty. A short pipe, a nose-warmer (q.v.).

Cuz. A workman free of the 'chapel.'

Cymbal. A watch.

D. 1. A penny, or (in pl.) pence; e.g. two *d*, three *d*, etc.,=two-pence, three-pence, etc. 2. A detective; among thieves, any policeman. *To use a big d*, to swear; the *d* stands for damned. *The two d's*, army regulations enact that a soldier's pay must not be so docked in fines as to leave him less than two-pence a day. Hence, if a man, from any cause, is put on short pay, he is said to be *on the two d's.*

Dab. 1. An expert, a dabster. [Thought to be a corruption of adept (Latin *adeptus*) a dep; a dap; a dab.] Cf. dabbler, one who meddles without mastery; a superficial meddler. Fr., *dab*, *dabe*, or *dade* (1733). 2. A bed, bug-walk, kip. 3. The drowned corpse of an outcast woman. 4. A trifle (1745). As adj., 1. Clever, skilled, expert. 2. Bad. A *dabheno*, a bad market, day, or sale. *Doogheno* =a good day, etc.; *dab tros*=bad sort. *Rum-dabe*, the same as *dab*, subs., sense 1: see Rum. *To dab down*, to pay, hand over, post, shell out. *To dab it up*, to pair off; to agree to cohabitation.

Dabster. An expert or *dab* (q.v.).

Dace. Two-pence; in America, two cents. [From deuce.]

Dacha-saltee. A franc; or tenpence English. [From the Italian *dieci soldi.*]

Dadbinged (also **-blamed, -fetched**), **gasted, -goned, -rotted,** or **-snatched** (American), half-veiled oaths, 'whips to beat the devil round the stump.'

Dad-dad, (**Mum-mum** or **Daddy-mammy**). A beginner's practice on the drum.

Daddle. The hand; or fist. *To tip the daddle*, to shake hands. English synonyms: chalk-farm, claw, clutch, cornstealer, duke, fam, famble, feeler, fin, flapper, flipper, forceps, forefoot, fork, grappling-iron (or hook), goll (old), oar, paddle, palette, paw, plier, shaker, wing, Yarmouth mitten.

Daddy. 1. The superintendent of a casual ward; generally an old pauper. 2. A stage manager. 3. A confederate of workers of mock raffles, lotteries, etc.; generally the person selected to receive the prize.

Daddyism. (American). Pride of birth.

Daffy (or **Daffy's Elixir**). Gin. [From a popular medicine sold as early as the beginning of the eighteenth century.

Daffy-down-dilly. A dandy, one 'got up regardless.'

Dagen. An artful member.

Dagger-cheap. Dirt cheap. [From an ordinary of low repute in Holborn, notorious for the coarseness of its entertainment (see Johnson's *Alchemist*, v. 2, and *Devil is an Ass*, i. 1).

Dags. A feat, performance, work, e.g. I'll do your *dags*=an incitement to emulation.

Daily Levy (The). The *Daily Telegraph.* [This London daily is the property of Mr. Edward Levy Lawson.]

Dairy. The paps. *To air the dairy*=to expose the breast. English synonyms: bubs (or bubbies), charlies, blubber, butter-boxes, butter-bags, berkeleys, cat-heads, diddies, globes, dugs, milk-walk, milk-shop, milky way, dumplings, udder (Browning), 'Nature's founts', feeding bottles, charms, hemispheres, apple-dumpling shop, meat market, poonts, titties, cabman's rests (rhyming), baby's bottom.

Daisies. Boots: also *Daisy-roots*. *To turn up one's toes to the daisies*, to die: see Hop the twig.

Daisy. A man or thing first-rate of a kind. As adj., first-rate, A1.

Daisy-beat. See Beat.

Daisy-beaters. See Creepers.

Daisy-cutter. 1. A horse, good or bad: also *daisy-kicker*: Fr., *rase tapis* (1785). 2. A ball bowled to travel more than half the pitch along the ground without rising, a sneak, and (Wykehamicé), a ramrod.

Daisy-kicker. 1. A horse. 2. An ostler (1781).

Daisy-roots. Boots. *To pick a daisy*, to evacuate in the open.

Daisyville. The country, the monkery: also Deuseaville (1622).

Dakma. To silence.

Dam. *To care* or *be worth not a dam*, to care or be worth nothing.

Damage. The cost of anything, the sum total in the sense of recompense. What's the *damage* (or *swindle*)? What's to pay? (1800).

Damaged. Drunk, Screwed (q.v.).

Damber. A man, Cove, or Cull, in the fraternity of vagabonds.

Damme (Dammy or Dammy-boy). A sixteenth and seventeenth century roysterer, a blusterer.

Dam-nasty Oath (American). A corruption of amnesty oath. [Southerners, at the close of the Civil War, were required, as an outward sign of submission to the Union, to subscribe to certain conditions, upon which a free pardon was granted. The terms were deemed unpalatable.]

Damned-soul. A Custom House clearing clerk. [To avoid perjury he was alleged to have taken a general oath never to swear truly in making declarations.] (*Lexicon Balatronicum*, 1811).

Damp (generally *Something damp*). A drink, go (q.v.). *To damp one's mug*, to drink: see Lush. *To damp the sawdust*, to crack a bottle with friends for luck on starting a new house.

Damper. 1. A till, Lob (q.v.). *Drawing a damper*, robbing a till, Lob-sneaking. 2. A sweater; one who takes as much as possible out of workmen for a minimum of pay. 3. He or that which damps, chills, or discourages. 4. Ale or stout after spirits and water, a Cooler (q.v.). 5. A snack between meals. 6. A suet pudding served before meat. 7. Unleavened bread made of flour and water and baked in thin cakes, in a frying pan or on a flat stone in wood ashes (Australian).

Damp-pot. The sea; specifically the Atlantic.

Damson-pie. A Birmingham and 'black country' term for 'Billingsgatry.'

Dance. A staircase, flight of steps: a contraction of the older form—Dancers. As verb, 1. To be hanged: also *to dance upon nothing*, and *to dance the Paddington frisk*: see Ladder. 2. Type *dances* if letters drop out when the forme is lifted. *To dance Barnaby*, see Barnaby.

Dance of Death. Hanging.

Dancers. 1. Stairs, flight of steps: Fr., *les grimpants* (1671). 2. (sing.) Also dancing master. A thief whose speciality is prowling about the roofs of houses and effecting an entrance through attic and upper storey windows; a garreteer (q.v.): also *dancing-master*.

Dancing-master. 1. A species of Mohock or dandy, temp. Queen Anne. [Who made his victims caper by running his sword through the legs; for detailed description, see *Spectator* (1712), No. 324.] 2. See Dancers, sense 2. 3. The hangman, Jack Ketch (q.v.).

D-and-D. Drunk and disorderly.

Dander. Anger. *To raise one's dander* (or *get one's dander up*, or *riz*), to make or get angry. Hence Dandered, angry, mad.

Dando. A great eater, glutton, wolfer; specifically a sharper who subsits at the expense of hotels, restaurants, or oyster bars. [From one Dando, a bouncing, seedy swell, hero of a hundred ballads, notorious for being charged at least twice a month with bilking.]

Dandy (formerly slang, now recognized). 1. A fop, coxcomb, man who pays excessive attention to dress. The feminine forms, 'dandilly' and 'dandizette,' did not catch on. Dandy was first applied half in admiration, half in derision to a fop about the year 1816. John Bee (*Slang Dict.*, 1823) says that Lord Petersham was the chief of these successors to the departed Macaronis, and gives, as their peculiarities, 'French gait, lispings, wrinkled foreheads, killing king's English, wearing immense plaited pantaloons, coat cut away, small waistcoat, cravat and chitterlings immense, hat small, hair frizzled and protruding.' In common English dandy has come to be applied to such as are neat and careful in dressing according to fashion. English synonyms: beau, blade, blood, buck, chappie, corinthian, count, court-card, cheese, daffy-down-dilly, dancing-master, dude, dundreary, exquisite, flasher, fop, gallant, gommy, gorger, Jemmy Jessamy, Johnny, lounger, macaroni, masher, mohawk, nerve, nicker, nizzie, nob, oatmeal, scourer, smart, spark, sweater, swell, toff, tiptopper, tumbler, yum-yum. 2. A base gold coin. [In allusion to its careful make and composition, this coin containing a certain proportion of pure gold.] 3. A 'small whisky.' 4. Anything first-rate; a Daisy (q.v.). Also used adjectively. *The Dandy*, all right, your sort, the ticket: a north-country song has the line, 'The South Shields lasses are The Dandy O!'

Dandy-master. The head of a gang of counterfeiters, one who makes the coin but does not himself attempt to pass it: see Dandy 2.

Dandypratt (or **Dandipratt**). Primarily a dwarf, page; by implication a jackanapes. In all likelihood, the etymon of the modern 'dandy,' erroneously derived from the French *dandin*, a fool, as in Molière, *Georges Dandin* (1580).

Dang it! A euphemism for Damn it! Also *Dang my buttons!* and *Dang me!*

Danglers. A bunch of seals.

Dan Tucker. Butter.

Darbies. 1. Handcuffs. English synonyms: black-bracelets, buckles, Father Derbie's bands, ruffles, wife, snitchers, clinkers, government securities, twisters, darbies and joans (=fetters coupling two persons). 2. Sausages, bags of mystery, chambers of horrors (q.v.).

Darble. The devil. [A corruption of French *diable.*]

Darby. Ready money. [One Derby is supposed to have been a noted sixteenth century usurer.]

Darby Allen (Lancashire). Cajolery, chaff, gammon.

Darby-roll. A gait peculiar to felons of long standing: the result of shackles-wearing.

Darby's-dyke. The grave; also death.

Darby's-fair. The day of removal from one prison to another for trial.

Dark. *To get the dark*, to be confined in the punishment cell.

Dark-cull (or **-cully**). A married man with a secret mistress (*Grose*).

Dark-horse (or **Dark'un**). A horse whose pace is unknown to the backers; figuratively, one about whom little is known.

Dark-house, subs. (old). A madhouse. Shakespeare (*All's Well*, etc., II. iii.) used it to denote the seat of gloom and discontent.

Darkmans (**Darks, Darky**). The night, twilight (1567). English synonyms: blackmans, blind, blindman's holiday (twilight).

Darkman's-budge. A burglar's confederate: he slips into a house during the day, hides there, and opens the door at night (*Grose*).

Darky (or **Darkey**). 1. A dark lantern, bull's eye. 2. The night, twilight: also (nautical) Darks. 3. A negro: see Snowball.

Darn (**Darned**). Euphemistic for damn and damned; used to avoid 'cussing bar'-foot.' Also *Darnation*, *Dangnation*, *Darn burn it*, and *Darn* (or *Dash*) *my buttons* (or *wig*).

Dart. A straight-armed blow.

D.A.'s. The menstrual flux: an abbreviation of *Domestic afflictions* (q.v.)

Dash. 1. A tavern waiter. 2. (common). A small quantity, a drink; a go (q.v.). Also a small quantity of one fluid to give a flavour to another e.g. a lemon and a dash, a bottle of lemonade with just a suggestion of bitter beer in it. As verb, to adulterate *Dash it!* (or *dash my buttons*, *wig*, *timbers*, etc.) Expletives employed euphemistically, i.e. to damn. *To cut a dash*: see Cut. *To have a dash on*, to speculate largely or wildly, to go it strong.

Dasher. 1. A showy prostitute. (1790). 2. An ostentatious or extravagant man or woman, an impetuous person, a clipper; also latterly, a man or woman of fashion, a person of brilliant qualities, mental or physical: Fr., *genreux-se.*

Daub. 1. An artist. 2. A bad picture.

David. 1. See Davy. 2. (American). A torpedo.

David's Sow. *Drunk as David's* (or *Davy's*) *sow*, beastly drunk: see Screwed.

Davy. 1. An affidavit: e.g. *So help* (or *s'welp*) *me davy*, or *Alfred Davy* (q.v.): Fr., *Je t'en fous mon* *billet* or *mon petit turlututu*, I'll take my davy on it (1764). *Davy Jones*, *Davy*, or *Old Davy*, the spirit of the sea, specifically the sailor's devil (1751). Whence, *Davy Jones' locker*, the ocean, specifically, the grave of them that perish at sea. The popular derivation (=a corruption of Jonah's locker, i.e. the place where Jonah was kept and confined, and by implication the grave of all gone to the bottom, drowned or dead) is conjectural. *Davy putting on the coppers for the parsons*, the indications of a coming storm. *Davy Jones' natural children*, smugglers, sea-rovers, pirates.

Davy's-dust. Gunpowder.

Dawb (or Daub). To bribe.

Daylight. A glass that is not a bumper, skylight (q.v.): obsolete. *To burn daylight*, to use artificial light before it is really dark, to waste time (1595). *To let* (or *knock*) *daylight into one* (*into the victualling department*, or *into the luncheon reservoir*), to stab in the stomach, and, by implication, to kill: Fr., *bayafer*.

Daylights. 1. The eyes. *To darken one's daylights*, to give a black eye, sew up one's sees (1752). 2. In sing., the space in a glass between liquor and brim: inadmissible in bumpers at toasts: the toast-master cries 'no daylights nor heeltaps!'

Deacon. To pack fruit, vegetables, etc., the finest on the top: cf. Yankee proverb, All deacons are good, but there is odds in deacons. *To deacon a calf*, to kill. *To deacon land*, to filch land by gradually putting back one's fences into the highway or other common property. *To deacon off*, to give the cue, lead in debate. [From a custom, once universal but now almost extinct, in the New England Congregational churches. An important function of the deacon's office was to read aloud the hymns given out by the minister one line at a time, the congregation singing each line as soon as read. This was called deaconing off.]

Deacon-seat. In log cabins the sleeping apartment is partitioned off by poles. The bed is mother earth, the pillow is a log, the foot-board a long pole six feet from the fire and in the centre of the cabin. The *deacon seat* is a plank fixed over and running parallel with the footboard so as to form a kind of settee in front of the fire. [Probably in allusion to the seats round a pulpit, facing the congregation, reserved for deacons.]

Deacon's Hiding-place. A private compartment in oyster saloons and *cafés*; Fr., *cabinet particulier*.

Dead. An abbreviation of dead certainty. As adj., stagnant, quiet (of trade), flat (as of beer or aerated waters after exposure), cold, good, thorough, complete (1602). *Dead as a door nail* (*mutton*, *a herring*, *a tent-peg*, *Julius Cæsar*, etc.), utterly, completely dead. Dead as a door-nail is found in Langland's *Piers Plowman* [1362]; all other forms are modern. *In dead earnest*, without doubt, in very truth. *Dead against*, decidedly opposed to. *Dead alive* (or *Dead-and-alive*), dull, stupid, mopish, formerly deadly-lively. *Dead-amiss*, incapacitated through illness from competing in a race: of horses. *Dead-beat*, a sponger, loafer, sharper. 2. A pick-me-up compounded of ginger, soda, and whisky. As verb, to sponge, loaf, cheat. As adj., exhausted. *Dead broke*, utterly penniless, ruined: also flat (or stone) broke; used verbally, to dead break. English synonyms: wound up, settled, coopered, smashed up, under a cloud, cleaned out, cracked up, done up, on one's back, floored, on one's beam ends, gone to pot, broken-backed, all U. P., in the wrong box, stumped, feathered, squeezed, dry, gutted, burnt one's fingers, dished, in a bad way, gone up, gone by the board, made mince meat of, broziered, willowed, not to have a feather to fly with, burst, fleeced, stony, pebble-beached, in Queer Street, stripped, rooked, hard up, broke, hooped-up, strapped, gruelled.

Dead-cargo. Booty of a disappointing character.

Dead-certainty. That which is sure to occur; usually contracted to Dead or Cert, both of which see. *Dead cut*, see Cut.

Dead-duck. That which has depreciated to the verge of worthlessness.

Deader. 1. A funeral, black-job (q.v.). 2. A corpse.

Dead-frost. A fiasco, Columbus (q.v.): Fr., *four noir*.

Dead-head (Dead-beat or Dead-hand). One who obtains something of commercial value without special payment or charge; spec. a person who travels by rail, visits theatres, etc., by means of free passes. Also as verb.

Dead-heat. A race with an equal finish: formerly dead (1635).

Dead-horse. 1. Work, the wages for which have been paid in advance; by implication, distasteful, or thankless labour: Fr., *bijouterie*. *To pull the dead horse*, to work for wages already paid: Fr., *manger du salé* (1651). 2. (West Indian). A shooting star. Among Jamaican negroes the spirits of horses that have fallen over precipices are thought to re-appear in this form. *To flog the dead horse*, to work to no purpose, dissipate one's energy in vain, make much ado about nothing.

Dead-letter. Anything that has lost its force or authority by lapse of time or other causes (1775).

Deadlights. The eyes.

Dead-lurk. The art of entering dwelling-houses during divine service (*Mayhew*).

Deadly. Very, extremely, excessively: e.g. So *deadly* cunning a man (*Arbuthnot*).

Deadly-lively. Jovial against the grain and to no purpose.

Deadly-nevergreen. The gallows, The leafless tree, The tree that bears fruit all the year round: see Nubbing-cheat.

Dead-man. 1. An emply bottle: said to bear Moll Thompson's mark (i.e. M.T.=empty). English synonyms: camp-candlestick, fellow-commoner, corpse, dummy, dead marine, dead recruit, dead 'un. 2. A loaf, over-charged, or marked down though not delivered. In London, dead 'un is a popular term for a half-quartern loaf. Also, by implication, a baker (1819). 3 (tailors'). In pl., Misfits; hence, a scarecrow.

Deadman's-lurk. Extortion of money from the relatives of deceased persons.

Dead-meat. A corpse. English synonyms: cold meat, pickles (medical students': for specimens direct from the subject), croaker, stiff, stiff 'un, dustman, cold pig. See Cold-meat train.

Dead-men's-shoes. A situation, property, or possession formerly occupied or enjoyed by a person who is dead and buried. *Waiting for dead men's shoes*, looking forward to inheritances (1584).

Dead-nap. A thorough-going rogue.

Dead-nip. A plan or scheme of little importance which has turned out a failure.

Dead-oh. In the last stage of intoxication: see Screwed.

Dead-on (or **Dead nuts on**). Originally, having some cause of complaint or quarrel; also, very fond of, having complete mastery over, sure hand at.

Dead-set. A pointed and persistent effort or attempt (1781).

Dead Sow's-eye. A badly worked button-hole.

Dead-stuck. Said of actors who break down in the midst of a performance through sudden lapse of memory.

Dead-swag. Dead stock, or dead cargo (q.v.); plunder that cannot be disposed of.

Dead-to-rights. Certain, without doubt.

Dead-'un. 1. An uninhabited house. The cracksman who confines his attentions to 'busting' of this kind is, in Fr., *un nourrisseur*. 2. A half-quartern loaf. 3. A horse destined to be scratched or not intended to win, and against which odds may be safely laid; a safe 'un (q.v.). 4. An empty bottle. 5. An unpaid super.

Dead-unit for (or against). Collective advocacy of (or opposition to) a subject, principle, or line of action.

Dead-wood earnest. Quite earnest, dead on.

Dead Wrong-'un. See Wrong 'un.

Deady (or **Dead-eye**). Gin; a special brand of full proof spirit, Stark-naked (q.v.). [From Deady, a well-known gin-spinner.] (1819).

Deal. *There's a deal of glass about*, said of men and things; used as a compliment=showy, it's the thing. *To wet the deal*, to ratify a bargain by drinking, to 'shake.' *To do a deal*, to conclude a bargain.

Deal-suit. A coffin; especially one supplied by the parish.

Dean (Winchester College). A small piece of wood bound round a Bill-brighter (q.v.); that securing a faggot is called a Bishop.

Deaner. A shilling: see Rhino.

Death. *To be death on,* very fond of, thoroughly master of—a metaphor of completeness; the same as Dead on, Mark on, or Some pumpkins on. *To dress to death,* to attire oneself in the extreme of fashion. In America *to dress within a inch of one's life*; *to dress up drunk,* and *to dress to kill.* An old Cornish proverb has *dressed to death like Sally Hatch* (*N. and Q.*, 3 *ser.*, vi. 6).

Death hunter. 1. A vendor of the last dying speeches, or confessions of criminals; a running patterer or stationer (1738). 2. An undertaker.

Death or Glory Boys. See Bingham's Dandies.

Debblish. A penny: see Rhino.

Decent (**Decently, Decentish**). Moderate, tolerable, passably, fairly good.

Decoy-bird (**or duck**). One employed to decoy persons into a snare; a Buttoner or Bug-hunter (q.v.): Fr., *allumeur, chatouilleur,* or *arrangeur.*

Decus. A crown piece: see Rhino. [From the Latin motto, *Decus et tutamen* on the rims of these coins.] (1688).

Dee. 1. A pocket-book or reader. 2. A detective; also 'teo (q.v.). 3. See D, sense 2.

Decker. A thief kept in pay by a constable (*Haggart*).

Deep. Artful, e.g. a deep one: cf. Wide (1672).

Deerstalker. A felt hat: see Golgotha.

Deferred-stock. Inferior soup.

Degen (**Degan, or Dagen**). A sword (1785).

Delicate. A lurker's (q.v.) false subscription book.

Dell. A young girl, virgin, young wanton: later, a mistress: cf. Doxy (1567).

Delog. Gold: see Rhino.

Delo-nammow. An old woman.

Delve. *To delve it,* to hurry with one's work, head down and sewing fast.

Demaunder for Glymmar. 'These Demaunders for Glymmar be for the moste parte women; for glymmar in their language, is fyre. These goe with fayned lycences and counterfayted wrytings, hauing the hands and seales of suche gentlemen as dwelleth nere to the place where they fayne them selues to haue bene burnt, and their goods consumed with fyre. They wyll most lamentable demaunde your charitie, and wyll quicklye shed salte teares, they be so tender harted. They wyll neuer begge in that Shiere where their losses (as they say) was' (*Harman*).

Demi-doss. A penny sleep.

Demi-rep. A woman of doubtful repute. [A contraction of demi-reputation.] (1750).

Demnition Bow-wows. The 'dogs' which spell 'ruin.' Originally a Dickensism.

Demon (Australian prison). 1. A policeman. 2. An adept; e.g. the demon bowler=Mr. Spofforth; *the demon jockey*=Fordham or Fred Archer, and so forth.

Den. A place where intimates are received; one's diggings, or snuggery.

Dennis. A small walking stick.

Dep. 1. A deputy; specifically the night porter or chamberlain at padding or doss-kens. 2. (Christ's Hospital). A deputy Grecian, i.e. a boy in the form below the Grecians.

Derrey. An eyeglass. *To take the derrey,* to quiz, ridicule.

Derrick. The gallows. [A corruption of Theodoric, the name of the public hangman at the end of the sixteenth and the beginning of the seventeenth centuries.] Now the name of an apparatus, resembling a crane. Also as verb, to hang (1600): see Nubbing-cheat.

Derwenter. A convict. [From the penal settlement on the banks of the Derwent, Tasmania.]

Despatchers. False dice with two sides, double four, five, and six.

Desperate (and **Desperately**). generic for excessiveness; e.g. *desperately mashed,* over head and ears in love.

Detrimental. An ineligible suitor; also a male flirt.

Detrimental-club. The Reform Club.

Deuce (**Dewce, or Deuse**). 1. The devil; perdition. Also used as an ejaculation, e.g. the *deuce!* what the *deuce!* who the *deuce! deuce take you!* etc. 2. Twopence: see Rhino (1714). 3. The two at dice or cards. *To play the deuce* (or *devil*) *with,* to send, or be sent, to rack and ruin. *The deuce to pay,* unpleasant or awkward consequences to be faced: see *Devil to pay.*

Deuced. Devilish, excessive, confounded. Also adverbially.

Deusea-ville. The country: see Daisyville.

Deusea-ville Stampers. Country carriers.

Devil. 1. Formerly, a barrister who *devils*, or gets up, a case for a leader; as in *A Tale of Two Cities*, Sydney Carton for Mr. Stryver. Now common for any one hacking for another. 2. An errand boy or young apprentice; in the early days of the craft, the boy who took the printed sheets as they came from the press: Fr., *attrape-science* (1754). 3. A kind of sharpened anchor, at the bows of a trawler, for cutting the nets of drifters in the North Sea. 4. A firework (1742). 5. Gin seasoned with capsicums. 6. A grilled bone seasoned with mustard and cayenne. 7. A sandstorm. 8. A species of firewood soaked in resin. *The* (or *a*) *devil of* [*a thing*], an indefinite intensitive: e.g. *devil* of a mess, of a woman, of a row, etc. (1602). *American devil*, a steam whistle or hooter: used in place of a bell for summoning to work. *Blue devils*: see ante. *Little* (or *young*) *devil*, a half playful, half sarcastic, address; a term of endearment; e.g. You little devil. As verb, 1. To act as a *Devil* (q.v.), to perform routine or regular work for another. 2. To victimize. *What who, when, where*, or *how the devil*, an expletive of wonder, vexation, etc. *To play the devil with*, to ruin or molest. *To pull the devil by the tail*, to go headlong to ruin; also to be reduced to one's last shift. *To whip the devil round the stump*, to enjoy the sweets of wickedness and yet escape the penalty. *Haul devil, pull baker*, to contend with varying fortunes. *And the devil knows what* (or *who*), a term used vaguely and indefinitely to include details not specifically mentioned or known (1717). *To go to the devil*, to go to rack and ruin. *Go to the devil!* Begone! a summary form of dismissal with no heed as to what may become of the person who is sent about his business. *To hold a light* or *candle to* (or *burn a candle before*) *the devil*, to propitiate through fear, to assist (or wink at) wrongdoing. Shakespeare ('Merchant of Venice,' act II. sc. vi.), employs 'What! must I hold a candle to my shame,' in much the same sense. *Not fit to hold a candle to the devil*, a simile of inferiority. *To hold a candle to another*, to assist in, occupy a subordinate position, or to compare to another (1461). *The devil* (or *the devil and all*) *to pay*, a simile of fruitless effort; awkward consequences to be faced. [Nautical: originally, There's the devil to pay and no pitch hot; the devil being any seam in a vessel, awkward to caulk, or in sailor's language 'to pay.' Hence by confusion, The deuce to pay (q.v.).] (1711). *Talk of the devil and you'll see his horns* or *tail*, said of a person who, being the subject of conversation, unexpectedly makes an appearance. Fr., *parlez des anges et vous en voyez les ailes* (1664). *Devil may care*, rollicking, reckless, rash (1822). *Devil take* (*fetch, send, snatch*, or *fly away with*) *you, me, him!* an imprecation of impatience. Fr., *le boulanger t'entrolle en son pasclin*. *There's the devil among the tailors*, a row is going on. [Edwards:—Originating in a riot at the Haymarket when Dowton announced the performance, for his benefit, of a burlesque entitled 'The Tailors: a Tragedy for Warm Weather.' Many thousands of journeymen tailors congregated, and interrupted the performances. Thirty-three were brought up at Bow Street next day.—See *Biographica Dramatica* under 'Tailors.'] *When the devil is blind*, never, i.e. in a month of Sundays; said of anything unlikely to happen: see Greek Kalends.

Devil-dodger. A clergyman: also, by implication, any one of a religious turn of mind (1791). English synonyms: devil catcher (driver, pitcher, or scolder), snub devil, bible pounder, duck that grinds the gospel mill, commister, camister, sky-pilot, chimney-sweep, rat, rum (Johnson), pantiler, cushion smiter (duster, or thumper), couple (or buckle) beggar, rook, gospel grinder, earwig, one-in-ten (tramps' = a tithe-monger), finger-post, parish prig, parish bull, holy Joe, green apron, black cattle (collectively), white choker, patrico, black coat, black fly, glue pot, gospel postilion, prunella, pudding-sleeves, puzzle-text, schism-monger, cod, **Black Bruns-**

wicker, spiritual flesh-broker, head-clerk of the Doxology Works, Lady Green, fire-escape, gospel sharp, padre (Anglo-Indian), pound-text.

Devil-drawer. An indifferent artist.

Devilish. Used intensively: cf. Awfully, beastly (1755).

Devil's Bed-posts (or **Four-poster**). The four of clubs; held to be an unlucky 'turn up.'

Devil's-bones. Dice; also Devil's teeth, Devil's books (1664).

Devil's-books. Cards. [Of Presbyterian origin; in reproof of a synonym — King's books, or more fully, The History of the Four Kings (Fr., *livre des quatre rois*).] Also Books of Briefs (Fr., *la cartouchière à portées*) (1729).

Devil's-claws. The broad arrow on convict dress.

Devil's-colours (or livery). Black and yellow.

Devil's-daughter. A shrew.

Devil's-delight. *To kick up the devil's delight*, to make a disturbance (1854).

Devil's-dozen. Thirteen; the original of baker's dozen (q.v.). [From the number of witches supposed to sit down together at a 'Sabbath.' Fr., *boulanger* = the devil.]

Devil's-dung, subs. (old). Asafœtida: the old pharmaceutical name (1604).

Devil's-dust. 1. Old cloth shredded for re-manufacture. [In twofold allusion to the swindle and to the 'dust' or 'flock' produced by the disintegrating machine called a 'devil.' The practice and the name are old. Latimer, in one of his sermons before Edward the Sixth, treating of trade rascality, remarked that manufacturers could stretch cloth seventeen yards long, into a length of seven-and-twenty yards: 'When they have brought him to that perfection,' he continues, 'they have a pretty feat to thick him again. He makes me a powder for it, and plays the pothicary. They call it flock-powder, they do so incorporate it to the cloth, that it is wonderful to consider; truly a good invention. Oh that so goodly wits should be so applied; they may well deceive the people, but they cannot deceive God. They were wont to make beds of flocks, and it was a good bed too. Now they have turned their flocks into powder, to play the false thieves with it.' Popularised by Mr. Ferrand in a speech before the House of Commons, March 4, 1842 (*Hansard*, 3 S., lxi. p. 140), when he tore a piece of cloth made from devil's dust, into shreds to prove its worthlessness.] Also Shoddy (q.v.) (1840). 2. Gunpowder.

Devil's-guts. A surveyor's chain (1785).

Devil's Own (The). 1. The Eighty-Eighth Foot. [A contraction of The Devil's Own Connaught Boys, a name bestowed by General Picton for gallantry in action and irregularity in quarters during the Peninsular War, 1809-14.] 2. The Inns of Court Volunteers [in allusion to the legal *personnel*] (1864).

Devil's-paternoster. *To say the devil's paternoster*, verb. phr. (old). To grumble (1614).

Devil's-playthings. Cards: also Devil's books.

Devil's-sharpshooter. A cleric who took part in the Mexican War.

Devil's-smiles. April weather, alternations of sunshine and rain.

Devil's-tattoo. Drumming the fingers or tapping the floor with one's feet, in vacancy or impatience (1817).

Devil's-teeth. See Devil's-bones. [Also to note in this connexion are *Devil's own boy*, a young blackguard; *imp of the devil*, *idem*; *Devil's own ship*, a pirate; *Devil's own luck*, uncommon, or inexplicable good fortune. *To lead one the devil's own dance*, to baffle one in the pursuit of any object; *The devil a bit, says Punch*, a jocular yet decided negative; and *Neat but not gaudy, as the devil said when he painted his bottom pink and tied up his tail with pea green*, a locution employed of aged ladies dressed in flaming colours.]

Deviltry. A vulgarism for devilry.

Devor (Charterhouse). Plum cake. [From the Latin.]

Devotional-habits. Said of a horse that is apt to 'say his prayers,' i.e. to stumble and go on his knees.

Dew-beaters (dusters, or treaders). 1. Pedestrians out early in the morning, i.e. before the dew is off the ground (1692). 2. The feet: see Creepers. 3. Shoes.

Dew-bit. A snack before breakfast.

Dew-drink. A drink before breakfast: Fr., *goutte pour tuer le ver*, i.e. to drown the maggot, or, to crinkle the worm. Not, of course, the early worm of the proverb, but his spiritual cousin, the worm that never dies.

Dewitt. To lynch. [The two De Witts, opponents of William of Orange, were massacred by the mob in 1672, without subsequent inquiry.] Cf. Boycott, Burke, Cellier (1690).

Dewse-a-Vyle. The country: see Daisyville (1567).

Dewskitch. A thrashing.

Dial (or **Dial-plate**). The face. *To turn the hands on the dial*, to disfigure the face. English synonyms: frontispiece, gills (the jaws), chump (also the head), phiz, physog, mug, jib, chivy (or chevy), roach and dace (rhyming), signboard, door-plate, front-window.

Dials. Convicts and thieves hailing from Seven Dials.

Diamond-cracking. 1. Stone-breaking. 2. Coal mining. Cf. Black diamonds.

Dibs (or **Dibbs**). Generic for money: see Rhino. [Said to be a corruption of *diobs*, i.e. *diobolus*, a classic coin = 2½d. Another derivation is from the hucklebones of sheep, popularly dibbs, used for gambling; Scots 'chuckies.'] *To brush with the dibs*, to abscond with the cash; *To tip over the dibs*, to pay down or shell out; *To flash the dibs*, to show money, etc.

Dice. *To box the dice*, to carry a point by trick or swindle.

Dick. 1. A dictionary, a Richard (q.v.); also, by implication, fine language or long words. 2. A riding whip. 3. An affidavit. 4. An Irish Catholic: see Crawthumper. As verb, to look, Pipe (q.v.); e.g. the bulky's dicking, the policeman is watching you: Fr., *gaffer*: see Pipe. *Dick in the green*, weak, inferior: cf. Dicky. *In the reign of Queen Dick*, never, when two Sundays come in a week: see Greek Kalends. *To swallow the Dick*, to use long words without knowledge of their meaning, to high falute (American). *Up to Dick*, not to be taken in, artful, fly, wide-awake. Also, up to the mark, i.e. perfectly satisfactory.

Dickens. The devil (q.v.) or deuce (q.v.) (1596), used interchangeably. [A corruption of nick (q.v.).] For synonyms, see Skipper.

Dicker (or **Dickering**). Barter, swap (q.v.): generally applied to trade in small articles.

Dickey. 1. A woman's under petticoat. 2. A donkey (1766). 3. A sham shirt front, formerly a worn-out shirt. [*Hotten*: originally tommy (from the Greek, τομή, a section), a word once used in Trinity College, Dublin.] Also, by implication, any sham contrivance (1781). 4. A shirt collar (*De Vere*). 5. A ship's officer or mate; *second dickey*, i.e. second mate. 6. A swell: see Dandy. As adj., 1. Sorry, inferior, paltry and poor in quality. *Dickey domus* (theatrical), a poor house. 2. Smart: corruption of Up to dick (q.v.). *All dickey with* [*one*], queer, gone wrong all up with (1811).

Dickey-bird. 1. A louse: see Chates. 2. (pl.) Professional singers of all grades. 3. A prostitute; generally *naughty dickey-bird.*

Dickey-diaper. A linen-draper.

Dickey-dido. An idiot: see Buffle.

Dickey-lagger. A bird-catcher.

Dickey-sam. A native of Liverpool.

Diddies. The paps.

Diddle. 1. Gin: see Drinks. 2. A swindle, do. As verb, 1. To cheat (1811). 2. (Scots colloquial). To shake.

Diddle-cove. A landlord.

Diddler. A cheat, a dodger. [Cf. Jeremy Diddler, in Kenny's *Raising the Wind.*] Also a chronic borrower.

Didoes. Pranks, tricks, fantastic proceedings.

Die (or **Dee**). A pocket book. *To die in one's boots* (or *shoes*). 1. To be hanged: see Ladder (1653). 2. To 'die standing': at work, in harness, in full possession of one's faculties. See Cotton.

Die-by-the-Hedge. The flesh of animals deceased by accident or of disease; hence, inferior meat.

Die-Hards. The Fifty-Seventh Foot. [From the rallying call at Albuera (1811) its Colonel (Inglis) calling to the men, 'Die hard, my men, die hard,' when it had thirty bullets through the King's Colour, and only had one officer out of twenty-four, and one hundred and sixty-eight men out of five hundred and eighty-four, when left standing.]

Dig. 1. A blow, thrust, punch, or poke; in pugilism, a 'straight left-hander' delivered under the guard on the 'mark' (1819). Also as verb. English synonyms: auctioneer, biff, bang, buck-horse, buster, chatterer, chin-chopper, chopper, clip, click, clinker, clout, cock, cork, comber, cuff, cant, corker, dab, downer, douser, ding, domino, floorer, ferricadouzer, fibbing, facer, flush-hit, finisher, gooser, hot 'un, jaw-breaker, lick, mendoza, muzzler, noser, nobbler, nose-ender, nope, oner, punch, stock-dollager, stotor, spank, topper, twister, whack, wipe. 2. A diligent student: (by implication from the verb (q.v.); also study; e.g. to have a *dig* at Cæsar or Livy; as verb, to work hard; especially to study. *To dig a day under the skin*, to make one shave serve two days. *To dig up the hatchet*: see Bury.

Digester. See Patent digester.

Digged. See Jigged.

Diggers. 1. Spurs, persuaders (1789). 2. The spades suit: also Diggums. *Big digger*, ace of spades. 3. The finger nails.

Diggers'-delight. A wide-brimmed felt hat: see Golgotha.

Diggings. A place of residence or employment. [First used at the Western lead mines in the U.S.A. to denote whence ore was dug.] English synonyms: birk, box, case, crib, chat, den, dry-lodgings, drum, place, pig-sty, pew, cabin, castle, chaffing-crib, caboose, sky-parlour, shop, ken, dossing-ken, hole, rookery, hutch, hang-out.

Diggums. 1. A gardener. 2. The suit of spades; also Diggers (q.v.).

Dilberries. Fœcal and seminal deposits: clinkers.

Dilly. A night cart; formerly a coach. [Fr., *diligence*.]

Dilly-bag. A wallet, scran-bag.

Dilly-dally. To loiter, hesitate, trifle (1740).

Dimber. Pretty, neat, lively, scrumptious, natty. Fr., *batif*, *fignole*, *girofle*. *Dimber cove*, a sprightly man, a gentleman. *Dimber mort*, a pretty girl.

Dimber-damber. A captain of thieves or vagrants.

Dimmock. Generic for money: see Rhino.

Dinahs. Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Ordinary Stock.

Dinarly (or **Dinali**) Money: generic: see Rhino. *Nantee* (or *Nanti Dinarly*), no money: Sp., *dinero*; Lingua Franca, *niente dinaro*, not a penny.

Dine. *To dine out*, to go dinnerless. *To dine with Duke Humphrey*, *Take a Spitalfields breakfast* (or *an Irishman's dinner*), go out and count the railings. Fr., *Se coucher bredouille* (to go to bed supperless); *aller voir défiler les dragons* (to go and watch the dragoons march past); *diner en ville* (to dine in town: i.e. to munch a roll in the street or to eat nothing), *lire le journal*.

Ding. To knock, strike down, pound, or give way: also to get rid of, pass to a confederate, steal by a single effort. *To ding a castor*, to snatch a hat and run with it: the booty being dinged if it has to be thrown away. *Going upon the ding*, to go on the prowl. *Ding the tot*! run away with the lot! (1340).

Ding-bat. Money: see Rhino.

Ding-boy. A rogue, bully (*Grose*).

Ding-dong. *To go at it* (or *to it*) *ding-dong*, to tackle with vigour, or in right good earnest. Formerly, helter-skelter (*Grose*, 1785).

Dinge (Royal Military Academy). A picture or painting.

Dinged. Darned (damned), sometimes Ding-goned.

Dinger. 1. A thief who throws away his booty to escape detection: see Ding. 2. In pl., cups and balls; Fr., *gobelets et muscades*.

Ding-fury. Huff, anger.

Ding-goned. See Dinged.

Dingle. Hackneyed, used up (1786).

Dining-room. The mouth: see Potato-trap. *Dining-room chairs*, the teeth; also *Dinner-set* (q.v.): see Grinders.

Dining-room Post. Petty pilfering by sham postmen.

Dink. Dainty, trim (1794).

Dinner-set. The teeth. Your dinner-set wants looking to, you need to go to the dentist.

Dip. 1. A pickpocket; also Dipper and Dipping-bloke: see Stook-hauler. 2. A stolen kiss, especially one snatched in the dark. 3. (Westminster School). A pocket inkstand. 4. A candle made by dipping the wick in tallow. As verb (1) To pick pockets *To dip a lob*, to rob a till: also *to go on the dipe*, to go pocket-picking: see Frisk. (2) To pawn, mortgage (1693). (3) To be convicted, get into trouble. *To dip one's beak*, to drink: see Lush.

Dipe. See Dip.

Dipped. *Dipped in the wing.* Worsted.

Dipper. 1. A baptist (*Grose*). 2. See Dip.

Dipping-bloke. See Dip.

Dips. 1. A purser's boy. 2. A grocer.

Dipstick. A gauger.

Dirt. Money: generic: see Rhino. *To eat dirt*, to submit to insult, eat broiled crow, or humble pie (q.v.); to retract. *To fling dirt* (or *mud*), to abuse, vituperate (1689). *To cut dirt.* See Cut.

Dirt-baillie. An inspector of nuisances.

Dirt-scraper. An advocate who rakes up unpleasant facts in a witness's past.

Dirty-dishes. Poor relations.

Dirty Half-Hundred. The Fiftieth Foot. [From the fact that, in action, during the Peninsular War, the men wiped their faces with their black facings.] Also the Blind Half-Hundred.

Dirty-puzzle. A slut (*Grose*).

Dirty-shirt March. On Sunday mornings the male population of Drury Lane, Whitechapel, and other crowded districts loaf about the streets, before attiring themselves in their Sunday clothes. This promenade is called a Dirty-shirt march.

Dirty-shirts. The Hundred and First Foot. [They fought in their shirt-sleeves at Delhi in 1857.]

Disgruntled. Offended: colloquial in U.S.A. *Undisgruntled*, unoffended.

Disguised. Drunk: see Screwed (1622).

Dish. To cheat, circumvent, disappoint, to ruin (1798).

Dish-clout. A dirty-puzzle, slattern. *To make a napkin of one's dish-clout*, to marry one's cook, contract a *mésalliance* (*Grose*).

Dished. Said of electrotypes when the centre of a letter is lower than its edges.

Dismal-ditty. A psalm sung by a criminal at the gallows.

Dispar (Winchester College). See Cat's-head.

Dispatches. False dice; contrived always to throw a nick. See Doctor.

Dissecting-job. Garments requiring extensive alterations.

Distiller. A man easily vexed, and unable to dissemble his condition.

Ditto-blues (Winchester College). A suit of clothes all of blue cloth: cf. Dittoes.

Ditto Brother (or Sister) Smut. See Brother Smut.

Dittoes. A complete suit of clothes of the same material. Fr., *un complet.* Occasionally applied to trousers only.

Ditty-bag. A handy bag, used by sailors as a 'huswife.' [Deft, Dight = neat, active, handy.]

Dive. A drinking saloon; also a brothel. As verb, to pick pockets: see Frisk. *Diving*, picking pockets (1631). *To dive into one's sky*, to put one's hands into one's pockets. *To dive into the woods*, to conceal oneself.

Diver (or Dive). A pickpocket (as Jenny Diver in 'The Beggar's Opera') dip (q.v.): see Thief (1608).

Divers. The fingers: see Forks.

Divide. *To divide the house with one's wife*, to turn her out-of-doors.

Diving-bell. A cellar-tavern: cf. Dive: and see Lush-crib.

Do. 1. A fraud (1812). 2. One's duty, a success, performance of what one has to do; once literary (1663). As verb, (1) to cheat: see Gammon (1789). 2. To punish (q.v.). 3. To visit a place; e.g. to do Italy, to do the Row, to do the High (at Oxford), etc. Fr., *faire* is used in the same sense; *faire ses Acacias*, i.e. to walk or drive in the *Allée des Acacias.* 4. To perform, to come (q.v.); *to do the polite*, to be polite; *to do a book*, to write one; *to do the heavy* (*the grand*, or *the genteel*), to put on airs (1767). 5. To utter base coin or Queer (q.v.). *Do as I do*, an invitation to drink. See Drinks. *To do a beer* (or *a bitter*, *a drink*, or *a drop*), to take a drink. *To do a bilk.* See Bilk. *To do a bill*, to utter an acceptance or bill of exchange. *To do a bishop*, to parade at short notice. *To do a bit*, to eat something: cf. to do a beer. *To do a bunk* (or *shift*), to ease nature: see Bury a quaker, and Mrs. Jones. Also, to go away. *To do a crib*, to break into a house, to burgle: Fr., *maquiller* *une cambriole*: see Crack a crib. *To do a guy* (1) to run away, make an escape. (2) To absent oneself when supposed to be at work. *To do a nob*, to make a collection. *To do a pitch*: see Pitch. *To do a rush*, see Rush. *To do a snatch*: see Snatch. *To do a star pitch*, to sleep in the open air: Fr., *loger à la belle étoile*: see Hedge Square. *To do a brown*: see Brown and Bamboozle: also to do brown and to do it up brown. *To do for* (1) to ruin: also to kill (1650). (2) To attend on (as landladies on lodgers). (3) To convict, sentence. *Done for*, convicted. *To do* or *play gooseberry*: see Gooseberry. *To do gospel*, to go to church. *To do the handsome* (or *the handsome thing*), to behave extremely well to one. *To do it away*, to dispose of stolen goods: also To do the swag (q.v.), Fence (q.v.). *To do it on the B. H.*, to perform with ease. *To do it up*, to accomplish an object in view, obtain one's quest. *To do it up in good twig*, to live an easy life by one's wits. *To do one proud*, to flatter: e.g. Will you drink? You do me proud. *To do out*, to plead guilty and exonerate an accomplice. *To do over* (1) to knock down, persuade, cheat, ruin (1789). (2) To search a victim's pockets without his knowing it: cf. run the rule over. *To do polly*, to pick oakum in gaol. *To do one's business*, to kill: see Cook one's goose. Also (vulgar), to evacuate. *To do the downy* to lie in bed. *Downy flea pasture*, a bed. *To do the swag*, to sell stolen property: Fr., *laver la camelote* or *les fourgueroles*. *To do the trick*, to accomplish one's object. *To do time*, to serve a term of imprisonment. *To do to death*, to repeat *ad nauseam*. *To do to tie to*, to be fit to associate with; trustworthy. *To do up*, to use up, finish, quiet. *Done up*, tired out, ruined, sold up: see Floored (1594). For the rest, do, like Chuck and Cop, is a verb-of-all-work, and is used in every possible and impossible connection. Thus, *To do reason* and *To do right*, to honour a toast; *To do a bit of stiff*, to draw a bill; *To do a chuck*, to eject, or to go away; *To do a sip* (back slang), to make water; *To do a cat*, to vomit; *To do a hall* (or *a theatre*), to visit a music hall or a playhouse; *To do a fluff* (theatrical), to forget one's part; *To do a pitch* (showman's or street artists'), to go through a performance; *To do a mouch* (or *a mike*), to go on the prowl; *To do a grouse*, to go questing for women; *To do a doss*, to go to sleep; *To do a cadge*, to go begging; *To do a scrap*, to engage in combat; *to do a rural*, to 'rear' by the wayside; etc. *Do tell!* intj. A useful interjection, for listeners who feel that some remark is expected; equivalent to the English Really? and Indeed? A similar phrase in the South is the old English, You don't say so? which a Yankee will vary by, I want to know! Do tell is also used with inexperienced Munchausens who by its means may often be lured to repeat themselves (1824).

Doash. A cloak: see Capella.

Dobbin. Ribbon. *Dobbin rig*, stealing ribbon.

Dock. 1. The weekly work bill or Pole (q.v.). 2. The hospital. As verb, (1) (Winchester College), to scratch out, tear out (as from a book); also to strike down. *To go into dock*, to undergo salivation.

Docker. 1. A brief handed to counsel by a prisoner in the dock. Legal etiquette compels acceptance if 'marked' with a minimum fee of £1, 3s. 6d. 2. A dock labourer.

Dock-walloper. A loafer; one who loiters about docks and wharves; also an unemployed emigrant.

Dockyarder. A skulker: cf. Strawyarder (q.v.).

Dockyard-horse. An officer better at correspondence than at active service.

Doctor. 1. A false die; sometimes a manipulated card. *To put the doctor on one*, to cheat. 2. An adulterant. *To keep the doctor*, to make a practice of adulterating liquor. 3. Brown sherry. [Because a doctored (q.v). wine.] 4. A ship's cook. 5. (Winchester College). The head master. 6. The last throw of dice or ninepins. As verb, (1) to patch, adulterate, falsify, cook. (2) To poison a horse.

Doctor Draw-fart. A wandering quack.

Doctored. Patched, adulterated, falsified, cooked.

Dod-burn it! A euphemistic oath; on the model of Dadbinged (q.v.).

Dodder. Burnt tobacco taken

from the bottom of a pipe and placed on the top of a fresh plug to give a stronger flavour.

Dodderer. A meddler; always in contempt. Sometimes doddering old sheep's head, which also=a fool.

Doddy. In Norfolk a person of low stature. Sometimes hodmandod and hoddy-doddy, 'all head and no body.' Dodman (dialect), a snail.

Dodfetched. A euphemistic oath. Most of its kind have originated in New England, where the descendants of the Puritans form the largest portion of the population.

Dodgasted. See Dodfetched.

Dodge. To trick, swindle, elude. Used in various combinations: *The pious dodge*, a pretence of piety; *The tidy-dodge*, begging in the streets with tidily but poorly dressed children, etc. Also, Nart (1708): see Lay.

Dodger. 1. A trickster: e.g. the 'Artful Dodger' (Dickens, *Oliver Twist*, ch. viii.): Fr., *être ficelle*, to be a dodger (1611). 2. A dram; provincially, a nightcap: see Go. 3. A hard-baked cake or biscuit: usually corn-dodger, or when mixed with beef, beef-dodgers. 4. A handbill.

Dodo. A stupid old man.

Dodrotted. A euphemistic oath.

Does. *Does it?* A sarcastic retort. *Does your mother know you're out?* A popular locution, vague as to meaning and inexact in application —an expression expressive of contempt, incredulity, sarcasm, anything you please. English variants: Has your mother sold her mangle? Not today, or it won't do, Mr. Ferguson! Sawdust and treacle! Draw it mild! And the rest! Who are you? All round my hat! Go it, ye cripples! Shoo, fly! How does the old thing work? Well, you know how it is yourself! How's your poor feet? Why, certainly! I'll have your whelk! Not to-day, baker, call to-morrow, and we'll take a crusty one! Do you see any green in my eye? Put that in your pipe and smoke it! Where are you going on Sunday? Go to Putney! Who stole the donkey: the man in the white hat! Cough, Julia! Over the bender! There you go with your eye out! etc., etc.

Dog. 1. A man; sometimes used contemptuously (cf. Cat, a woman), but more frequently in half-serious chiding; e.g. a sad dog, gay dog, old dog, etc.: see Cove. Sometimes adjectively=male; *An old dog at it*, expert, or accustomed to (1596). 2. A burglar's iron: see Jemmy. *To go* (or *throw*) *to the dogs*, see Go and Demnition Bow-wows. *Hair of the dog that bit you*: see Hair. *To blush like a blue dog*: see Blush. *Dog biting dog*, said of actors who spitefully criticise each others' performance. *Dog in a blanket*, a pudding of preserved fruit spread on thin dough, rolled up, and boiled; also Roly-poly and Stocking. *Like a dog in shoes*, a pattering sound; as the noise of a brisk walk. *Dog in the manger*, a selfish churl; who does not want himself, yet will not let others enjoy. [From the fable.] (1621). *To go to the dogs*: see Go. *To let sleeping dogs lie*: see Sleeping dogs.

Dogberry. A magistrate or stupid constable: see Beak and Copper. [From *Much Ado about Nothing.*]

Dog-cheap. Very cheap, of little worth, foolish. [Skeat: from Swed., *dog*, very; Latham: the first syllable is god = good, transposed + cheap, from chapman, a merchant—hence, a good bargain.] Fr., *bon marché* (1598).

Dog-collar. A stand-up shirt collar, an all-rounder (q.v.).

Dog-drawn (old), adj., phr. Said of a bitch from which a dog has been removed by force.

Dogger (Charterhouse). To cheat, sell rubbish.

Doggery. 1. Transparent cheating: cf. Dogger. [Carlyle in *Frederick* uses doggery = the doings of a scurvy set of soldiers.] 2. A low drinking saloon.

Doggoned. A euphemistic oath.

Doggy. A batty in the mining districts is a middleman; a doggy is his manager. As adj., (1) Connected with, or relating to dogs. (2) Stylish.

Dog-Latin. Barbarous or sham Latin; also Kitchen, Bog, Garden, or Apothecaries' Latin.

Dogs. 1. Sausages; otherwise bags of mystery (q.v.), or chambers of horrors (q.v.). 2. Newfoundland Land Company's shares; now amalgamated with the Anglo-American United, and called Anglos.

Dog's-body. Pease pudding.

Dog's-eared. Crumpled, as the leaves of a page with much reading.

Dog's-meat. Anything worthless: as a bad book, a common tale, a villainous picture, etc.

Dog-shooter. 1. A volunteer. 2. (Royal Military Academy). Cadets thus term a student who accelerates, that is, who, being pretty certain of not being able to obtain a commission in the engineers, or not caring for it, elects to join a superior class before the end of the term.

Dog's-nose. A mixture of gin and beer: see Drinks.

Dog's-paste. Sausage or mince-meat.

Dog's-portion. A lick and a smell, i.e. next to nothing.

Dog's-sleep. The lightest possible form of slumber.

Dog's-soup. Water: see Adam's ale and Fish broth.

Dog's-tail. The constellation of *Ursa minor* or Little Bear.

Dog-stealer. A dog-dealer: sarcastic.

Doldrums. Low spirits; the dumps or hump (q.v.). [Properly parts of the ocean near the Equator abounding in calms and light, baffling winds.]

Dole (Winchester College). A stratagem or trick. [Latin *dolus.*]

Dolifier (Winchester College). One who contrives a trick. See Dole.

Dollar. A five-shilling piece. Half-dollar, half-a-crown, or two shillings: see Caroon.

Dollop. A lot. *All the dollop,* the whole thing. In Norfolk to dollop, to dole out; also to 'plank.' Dolloping, throwing down.

Dolly. 1. A mistress. 2. A piece of cloth use as a sponge. As adj., silly.

Dolly-mop. A harlot.

Dolly-shop. A marine store: really an illegal pawn-shop and fence (q.v.); also leaving-shop. No questions are asked; all goods are received on the understanding that they may be repurchased within a given time; so much per day is charged; no duplicate is given; and no books are kept. From the sign of the Black Doll (q.v.).]

Dome. The head: see Crumpet.

Domestic-afflictions. A woman's flower-time.

Dome-stick. A domestic servant.

Dominie. A clergyman; also (modern Scots), a pedagogue or schoolmaster. [Latin *dominus,* a lord or master.] (1616).

Dominie Do-little. An impotent old man.

Domino! An ejaculation of completion: e.g. for sailors and soldiers at the last lash of the flogging; and for 'bus conductors when an omnibus is full inside and out; also, by implication, a knock-down blow, or the last of a series. [From the call at the end of a game of dominoes.]

Domino-box. The mouth: see Potato-trap.

Dominoes. 1. The teeth: see Grinders. *To sluice one's dominoes,* to drink. 2. The keys of a piano.

Domino-thumper. A pianist.

Dommerar (**Dommerer,** or **Dummerer**). A beggar feigning to be deaf and dumb; also, a madman (1567).

Don. An adept; a swell; also a swaggerer, a man putting on side. At the Universities a fellow or officer of a college; whence the vulgar usage. [Latin, *dominus,* a lord, through the Spanish title.] (1665). As adj., clever, expert, first-rate.

Dona (**Donna, Donny,** or **Doner**). A woman: see Petticoat.

Donaker. A cattle-lifter (1669).

Done! An interjection of acceptance or agreement (1602). As adj., exhausted, ruined, cheated, convicted. [See Do in most of its senses.]

Done-over. Intoxicated: see Screwed.

Donkey. 1. A compositor; pressmen are Pigs (q.v.). English synonyms: ass, moke, galley-slave. 2. A sailor's chest. 3. A blockhead: see Buffle. *A penny* (*twopence* or *threepence*) *more, and up goes the donkey,* an exclamation of derision. [Street acrobats': the custom was to finish off the pitch by balancing a donkey at the top of a ladder on receipt of 'tuppence more'; which sum, however often subscribed, was always re-demanded, so that the donkey never 'went up' at all.] *Who stole the donkey?* A street cry once in vogue on the appearance of a man in a white hat. With a similar expression Who stole the leg of mutton? applied to the police, it had its rise in a case of larceny. *To ride the donkey,* to cheat with weights and measures: also Donkey-riding. *To talk the hind leg off a donkey*: see Talk.

Donkey-drops. Slow roundhand bowling, such as is seldom seen in good matches, but is effective against boys, is known by the contumelious designation of donkey-drops.

Donkey's-ears. An old-fashioned shirt-collar with long points.

Donna. See Dona.

Donnish (Donnism, Donnishness) (University). Arrogant, arrogance (1823).

Donny. See Dona.

Donovans. Potatoes: cf. Murphy. [Donovan, like Murphy, is a common Irish patronym.]

Don's-week. The week before a general holiday.

Don't-name-'ems. Trousers: see Kicks.

Don't. *Don't you wish you may get it,* a retort forcible.

Doodle. A dolt: see Buffle.

Doodled. Cheated, done (1823).

Doodle-doo-man. A cockfighter or breeder.

Doog. Good.

Dookie. A penny show or unlicensed theatre: cf. Gaff.

Dookin (Dookering). Fortune-telling (1857). *Dookin-cove,* a fortune teller.

Door-nail. *Dead as a door-nail*: see Dead.

Doorsman. See Barker and Clicker.

Doorstep. A thick slice of bread and butter: Fr., *fondante.*

Dooteroomus (or Doot). Generic for money: see Rhino.

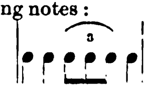
Dope. To drug with tobacco: also doping, the practice.

Dopey. 1. A beggar's trull. 2. (old). The *podex.*

Dor (Old Westminster School). 1. Leave to sleep awhile (*Kersey,* 1715). 2. An affront.

Doras. South-Eastern Railway Deferred Ordinary Stock, sometimes applied to the 'A' Stock.

Dorbie. An initiate. *The Dorbie's knock,* a peculiar rap given by masons as a signal amongst themselves. It may be represented by the time of the following notes:



Dorcas. A sempstress; especially one employing herself for charitable purposes.

Dorse. See Doss.

Dose. 1. A sentence of imprisonment; specifically three months' hard labour. English synonyms: spell, time, drag, three moon, length, stretch, seven-pennorth, sixer, twelver, lagging. 2. A burglary. 3. A beating. 4. As much liquor as one can hold. *To have a dose of the balmy,* to do a sleep. *To take a grown man's dose,* to take a very large quantity of liquor.

Doss (or Dorse). A bed, lodging; also a sleep, or lib (q.v.) (1789). As verb, to sleep. English synonyms: to go to the arms of Murphy (q.v.). have forty winks, go to Bedfordshire, take a little (or do a dose) of the balmy, chuck (or do) a doss, snooze, go to by-by, read the paper, shut one's eyes to think, retire to the land of Nod.

Dosser. One who frequents a doss-house (q.v.). *'Appy dossers,* houseless vagrants who creep in, sleep on stairs, in passages, and in empty cellars. *The dosser,* the father of a family.

Doss-house (Dossing-crib or ken). A common lodging-house: Fr., *bastengue* and *garno. Doss-money,* the price of a night's lodging (1838).

Dossy. Elegant, spiff (q.v.).

Dot. A ribbon. *Dot-drag,* a watch ribbon (1821).

Dot-and-Carry-(or Go-) one. 1. Properly, a man with a wooden leg; by implication, a Hopping-giles or Limping-Jesus (q.v.): Fr., *banban.* 2. A writing-master or teacher of arithmetic (*Grose*). As verb, to 'hirple'; especially applied to a person with one leg shorter than the other, or, with an uneven keel.

Dot. 1. An item of news. 2. Money: see Rhino.

Dotter. A reporter, penny-a-liner: see Dot.

Dottle. The same as Dodder (q.v.).

Dotty. 1. Feeble, dizzy, idiotic; e.g. *Dotty* in the crumpet, weak in the head; *Dotty* in the pins, unsteady on the legs. Also 2. subs., a fancy man of prostitutes of the lowest type.

Doubite. A street.

Double. 1. A trick. 2. An actor playing two parts in the same piece; also as a verb (1825). 3. A turning. 4. Repetition of a word or sentence. *Double,* adj. and adv., is also used as an intensitive in many obscene or offensive connotations: e.g. *Double-arsed,* large in the posteriors; *Double-*

duggs (and *Double-dugged* or *diddied*), heavy breasted; *Double-guts* (and *Double-gutted*), excessively corpulent; *Double-hocked*, abnormally thick ankled; *Double-mouthed*, Mouth-almighty (q.v.); and so forth.] *To put the double on*, to circumvent. *To tip* (or *give*) *the double*, to run or slip away openly or unperceived; to double as a hare; formerly to escape one's creditors. Also to Tip one the Dublin packet: see Amputate (1781).

Double-back. To go back upon oneself, an action, an opinion.

Double-barrel. A field or opera glass.

Double-bottomed. Insincere, saying one thing and meaning another.

Double-breasted feet. Club feet: also Double-breasters.

Double-cross (or **Double-double**). Winning or doing one's best to win after engaging to lose or Mike (q.v.).

Double-distilled. Superlative: e.g. a double-distilled whopper, a tremendous lie.

Double-dutch. Unintelligible speech, jargon, gibberish. It was all Double-dutch to me, I didn't understand a word of it.

Double-event. Backing a horse for two races.

Double-finn. A £10 note: see Finn.

Double-header. A false coin with a head on the obverse and reverse, made by soldering two split coins.

Double-juggs. The posteriors (*Burton*).

Double-lines. Ship casualties: from the manner of entering at Lloyd's.

Doubler. A blow in the side or stomach, causing a man to bend from pain or lack of wind.

Double-ribbed. Pregnant: see Lumpy.

Double-shotted. Said of a whisky (or brandy) and soda, containing twice the normal quatity of alcohol.

Double-shuffle. 1. A hornpipe step in which each foot is shuffled twice in succession, the more rapidly and neatly the better. 2. A trick or fakement.

Double-slang. See Slangs.

Doublet. A doctored diamond or other precious stone. The face is real and this is backed up by a piece of coloured glass. Cf. Triplet.

Double-thumber. A prodigious lie.

Double-tongued. Mendacious, given to change opinions in changing company.

Double-tongued squib. A double-barrelled gun.

Double-up. 1. To punish. *Doubled-up*, collapsed (1819). 2. To pair off, chum with.

Dough. Pudding.

Dough-baked. Deficient in intellect. In U.S.A., easily moulded: said of politicians (1675).

Doughy. A baker: see Master of the rolls.

Douse. See Dowse.

Dover. A made-dish, hash, *rechauffé*.

Dovers. South Eastern Railway Ordinary Stock.

Dove. A member of St. Catharine's College, Cambridge. It is said that the members of St. Catharine's Hall were first of all called Puritans, from the derivation of the name of their patroness from *καθαίρειν*. The dove being the emblem of purity, to change a name from Puritans to doves was but one short step. *Soiled dove*, a high-class prostitute.

Dove-tart. A pigeon-pie. (Doo-tairt is excellent Scots for the same thing.) Cf. Snake-tart, eel pie.

Dowlas. A draper. [From dowlas, now a kind of towelling, but mentioned by Shakespeare ('1 Henry IV.,' III. iii., 1597) as a material for shirts. Popularised as a sobriquet by Colman's Daniel Dowlas in *The Heir at Law*.

Dowling. A compulsory game of football. [*δοῦλος*.]

Down. 1. Suspicion, alarm, a diversion. *There is no down*, all is quiet, it is safe to go on (1821). 2. Small beer. Up, bottled beer. As adv. (1) dispirited, hard-up, in disgrace. Found in various combinations: e.g. *Down in the mouth* (or *dumps*), dejected; *Down on one's luck*, reduced in circumstances; *Down at heel*, shabby; *Down at one's back-seam*, out of luck; Down to bed-rock, penniless, etc., etc. (1608). (2) acquainted with, Fly (q.v.), Up to (q.v.). Also in combination: *down to*, *down on*, and *down as a hammer* (1610). (3) Hang-dog. As verb, to put on one's back; whether by force or by persuasion. *To be down a pit*, to be very much taken with a part. *To be* (or *come*) *down upon one*, to berate, attack, oppose. Sometimes with a tag: e.g. like a thousand (or a load) of bricks; like one o'clock; like a tomtit on a horse turd, etc. *To be down pin*, to be out of sorts, despondent. *To drop down on one*, to discover one's character or designs. *To put a down upon one*, to peach so as to cause detection or failure. *To put one down to* [*a thing*], to apprize, elucidate, or explain; to coach or prime; to let one into the know. *To take down a peg*: see Peg. *Down the road*, vulgarly showy, flash. *Down to dandy*: see up to Dick. *Down to the ground*, entirely, thoroughly, to the last degree (1542).

Downed. Tricked, beaten, sat upon.

Downer. 1. A sixpence: see Rhino. In U.S.A., a five-cent. piece. [Cf. Deaner (q.v.); now corrupted into Tanner (q.v.).] 2. A knock-down blow: cf. Bender, Doubler, etc.

Down-hills. Dice cogged to run on the low numbers (*Grose*).

Downs. Tothill Fields prison: see Cage.

Downstairs. Hell.

Downy. A bed: also Downy flea-pasture. As adj., artful, knowing (q.v.) (1823). *To do the downy*: see Do.

Downey-bit. A half-fledged girl.

Downy-cove (or bird). A clever rogue: in pl., the downies. English synonyms: mizzler, leary bloke or cove, sly dog, old dog, nipper, file, Greek, one that knows what's o'clock, one who knows the ropes, or his way about, don, dodger, dab, doll's eye-weaver, dam-macker, shaver, dagen, chickaleary-cove, ikey bloke, artful member, one that is up to the time of day, fly cove, one that's in the know, one that has his eye-teeth skinned, or that has cut his wisdoms.

Dowry. A lot, a great deal; *dowry of parny*, a lot of rain or water.

Dowse (or Douse). A verb of action: e.g. *Dowse your dog vane*, take the cockade out of your hat; *Dowse the glim*, put out the candle; *Dowse on the chops*, a blow in the face.

Dout. Literally, to do out; as Dup (q.v.), to do up, and Don, to do on. See *Hamlet*, iv. Then up he rose and donned his clothes, and dupped the chamber door.

Doxology-works. A church or chapel.

Doxy. A mistress, prostitute, occasionally, a jade, a girl, even a wife. In West of England, a baby (1567).

Dozing-crib. A bed: see Kip.

D.Q. *On the D.Q.*, on the dead quiet: cf. Strict Q.T., etc.

Drab. 1. Poison; also medicine. Also as a verb. 2. A strumpet. *Drabbing*, strumming.

Drabbut. A vague and gentle form of imprecation. *Drabbut your back*, confound you.

Draft. *Draft on Aldgate pump*, a fictitious banknote or fraudulent bill. See *N. and Q.*, 7 S., i. 387-493 (1750).

Drag. 1. A cart of any kind; now usually applied to a four-horse coach. 2. A chain. 3. A street or road. *Back drag*, a back street. 4. Three months' imprisonment; also Three Moon: see Dose. *Done for a drag*, convicted of Dragging (q.v.): see Drag, a term of imprisonment. 5. Feminine attire worn by men. *To go on* (*or flash*) *the drag*, to wear women's attire for immoral purposes. 6. A lure, trick, stratagem. 7. A fox prepared with herring or aniseed and brought to covert in a bag. 8. See Dragging. *To put on the drag*, to ease off or go slow; also to put on pressure. *To drag the pudding*, to get the sack just before Christmas-time.

Drag-cove. A carter or driver of a Drag (q.v.).

Dragging. Robbing vehicles.

Drag-lay. The practice of robbing vehicles (*Grose*).

Dragon. A sovereign, 20s.: see Rhino. *To water the dragon*, to urinate, 'pump ship,' 'rack off.'

Dragsman. A coachman; also a Drag-sneak (q.v.).

Drag-sneak. A thief who makes a speciality of robbing vehicles (1781).

Drain. 1. A drink: see Go. *To do a drain* (*wet*, or *common sewer*), to take a friendly drink (1835). 2. Gin. [From its diuretic qualities.]

Drains. A ship's cook; The Doctor (q.v.).

Drammer. See Drummer.

Draper. See Gammon the Draper.

Drat (Dratted). A mild and indefinite imprecation of contempt, or impatience. [A corruption of God rot it.]

Draught. A privy: see Mrs. Jones (1602).

Draw. 1. An undecided contest. [An abbreviation of 'drawn game.'] 2. An attraction; e.g. an article, popular preacher, successful play, and so forth. 3. A stroke with the surface of the bat inclined to the ground. As verb, (1) to attract public attention. (2) To steal, pick pockets. *To draw a wipe* (or *ticker*), to prig a handkerchief or watch; *to draw a damper*, to empty a till (*Grose*). (3) To tease to vexation, take in, make game of. (4) To bring out, cause to act, write, or speak, by flattery, mis-statement, or deceit. Also, to draw out; Fr., *tirer les vers du nez*. (5) To ease of money: e.g. I drew him for a hundred; She drew me for a dollar! *To draw on* [*a man*], to use a knife. *To draw a bead on*, to attack with rifle or revolver. *To draw a straight furrow*, to live uprightly. *To draw plaster*, to fish for a man's intentions. *To draw straws*, to be almost asleep, drowsy. *To draw teeth*, to wrench knockers and handles from street doors. *To draw the badger*: see Badger. *To draw blanks*, to fail, be disappointed. *To draw the bow up to the ear*: see Bow. *To draw* (or *pull*) *the long bow*: see Bow. *To draw the cork*, to make blood flow; to tap the claret (q.v.). *To draw the King's* (or *Queen's*) *picture*, to manufacture base money. *To draw wool* (or *worsted*), to irritate; foment a quarrel: cf. Comb one's hair. *Draw it mild!* an interjection of (1) derision; (2) incredulity; (3) supplication: cf. Come it strong. *Draw boy*, a superior article ticketed and offered at a figure lower than its value.

Drawer-on. An appetiser: used only of food, as Puller-on (q.v.) of drink. Both are in Massinger.

Drawers. Embroidered stockings (1567).

Draw-fart (or **Doctor Draw-fart**). A wandering quack.

Draw-latch. A thief; also a loiterer (1631).

Draw-off. To throw back the body to strike; He drew off, and delivered on the left peeper. A sailor would say, He hauled off and slipped in.

Dreadful. A sensational story, newspaper, or print: see Awful, and Shilling Shocker.

Dredgerman. A river thief under pretence of dredging up coals and such like from the bottom of the river. They hang about barges and other undecked craft, and when opportunity serves, throw any property they can lay their hands on overboard: in order, slyly, to dredge it up when the vessel is gone. Sometimes they dexterously use their dredges to whip away anything that may lie within reach. Some are mighty neat at this, and the accomplishment is called Dry dredging.

Dress (Winchester College). The players who come next in order after Six or Fifteen. [So called because they come down to the matches ready dressed to act as substitutes if required.] *To dress a hat*, to exchange pilferings: e.g. to swap pickings from a hosier's stock with a shoemaker's assistant for boots or shoes. *To dress down*, to beat, scold (1715). *To be dressed like Xmas beef*: see Beef. *To dress to death* (*within an inch of one's life*, or *to kill*), to dress in the extreme of fashion.

Dress-house. A brothel: cf. Dress-lodger.

Dressing (or **Dressing-down**). Correction, manual or verbal; also defeat.

Dress-lodger. A woman boarded, fed, and clothed by another, and paying by prostitution.

Dressy. Fond of dress.

Drilled. Shot through the body.

Drinks. The subjoined lists will be of interest. *Invitations to drink*—What'll you have? Nominate your pizen! Will you irrigate? Will you tod? Wet your whistle? How'll you have it? Let us stimulate! Let's drive another nail! What's your medicine? Willst du trinken? Try a little anti-abstinence? Twy (zwei) lager! Your whisky's waiting. Will you try a smile? Will you take a nip? Let's get there. Try a little Indian? Come and see your pa? Suck some corn juice? Let's liquor up. Let's go and see the baby. *Responses to invitations to drink.*—Here's into your face! Here's how! Here's at you! Don't care if I do. Well, I will. I'm thar! Accepted, unconditionally. Well, I don't mind. Sir, your most. Sir, your utmost. You do me proud! Yes, sir-ree! With *you*—yes! Anything to oblige.

On time. I'm with you. Count me in. I subscribe. *Synonyms for a drink* [i.e. a portion], generally, or when taken at specified times.—Anti-lunch, appetiser, ball, bullock's eye (a glass of port), bead, bosom friend, bucket, bumper, big-reposer, chit-chat, cheerer, cinder, corker, cobbler, damper, or something damp, dannie, drain, dram, deoch-an-doras, digester, eye-opener, entr'acte, fancy smile, flash, flip, facer, forenoon, go, gill, heeltap, invigorator, Johnny, joram, morning rouser, modicum, nip, or nipperkin, night cap, nut, pistol shot, pony, pill, quantum, refresher, rouser, reposer, shout, smile, swig, sleeve-button, something, slight sensation, shant, sparkler, settler, stimulant, soother, thimble-full, tift, taste, tooth-full, Timothy: see Go. *General synonyms for drink.*—Breaky-leg, bub, crater (also = whisky), fuddle, gargle, grog, guzzle, lap, lush, neck-oil, nectar, poison, slum-gullion, swizzle, stingo, tipple, tittey, toddy: see Tipple. *Synonyms for beer* (including stout). —Act of Parliament; artesian, barley, belch, belly-vengeance, bevy or bevvy, brownstone, bum-clink, bung-juice, bunker, cold-blood, down (see Up); English burgundy (porter), gatter, half-and-half, heavy-wet, John Barleycorn, knock-down or knock-me-down, oil of barley, perkin, ponge, pongelow, or ponjello, rosin, rot-gut, sherbet, stingo, swankey, swipes, swizzle, up (bottled ale or stout): see Swipes. *Synonyms for Brandy.*—Ball of fire, bingo, cold-tea, cold-nantz; French elixir or cream: see French Elixir. *Synonyms for whisky.* —*Aqua vitæ*, bald-face, barley-bree, breaky-leg, bottled-earthquake, bum-clink, caper-juice, cappie, curse of Scotland, family-disturbance, farintosh, forty-rod lightning, grapple-the-rails, hard stuff, hell-broth, infernal compound, kill-the-beggar, lightning, liquid fire, moonlight, moonshine, mountain-dew, old man's milk, pine-top, railroad, red-eye, rotgut, screech, Simon pure, sit-on-a-rock (rye whisky) soul-destroyer, square face, stone-fence, tangle-foot, the real thing, the sma' still, white-eye: see Old man's milk. *Synonyms for gin.* Blue ruin, blue-tape, Brian O'Lynn (rhyming), cat-water, cream of the valley, daffy, diddle, drain, duke, eye-water, frog's wine, juniper, jackey, lap, max, misery, old Tom, ribbon, satin, soothing-syrup, stark-naked, strip-me-naked, tape, white satin, tape, or wine: see Satin. *Synonyms for champagne.*—Cham or chammy, boy, fiz, dry, bitches' wine. *Synonyms for port.*—Red fustian (q.v.). Synonyms for sherry—Bristol milk, white wash. *Terms implying various degrees of intoxication*: see Screwed. See also lists under Elbow-crooker, Lush, Lushcrib, Lushington, Gallon Distemper.

Dripper. A gleet.

Dripping. A cook; especially an indifferent one: Fr., *fripier* and *daube*: cf. Doctor and Slushy (q.v.), a ship's cook.

Drive. A blow. *To let drive*, to aim a blow, strike. Four rogues in buckram let drive at me.—*Shakespeare.* As verb, to send a ball off the bat with full force horizontally. *To drive at*, to aim at: e.g. What are you driving at? What do you mean? (1697). *To drive a bargain*, to conduct a negotiation, make the best terms one can, dispute a condition or a price, succeed in a deal (1580). *To drive a humming* (or *roaring*) *trade*, to do well in business (1625). *To drive oneself to the wash*, to drive in a basket-chaise. *To drive pigs to market*, to snore. Fr., *jouer à la ronfle* (or *de l'orgue*), also *fumer*. *To drive turkeys to market*, to reel and wobble in drink. *To drive French horses*, to vomit. From the *Hue donc* of French carters to their teams.]

Driver's pint. A gallon.

Driz. Lace: Fr., *miche* (in allusion to the holes in a loaf of bread).

Driz-fencer. A street vendor of lace, also a receiver of stolen material.

Droddum. The posteriors (1786).

Dromaky. A prostitute: north of England, particularly N. and S. Shields. [From a strolling actress who personated Andromache.]

Dromedary. A bungler; specifically a bungling thief: also Purple dromedary.

Drop. See Drop game. As verb, (1) to lose, give, or part with (1812). (2) To relinquish, abandon, leave: e.g. to drop an acquaintance, to gradually withdraw from intercourse: cf. Cut. *To drop the main toby*, to turn out of the main road (1711). (3) To knock down: cf. To drop into, to thrash. (4) To bring down with a shot. *To drop anchor,* to pull up a horse. *To drop one's anchor,* to sit (or settle), down. *To drop a cog,* see Drop-game. *To drop one's flag,* to salute; also to submit, lower one's colours. *To drop* (*hang, slip,* or *walk*) *into,* to attack: also cf. Drop on to. *To drop off the hooks,* to die: see *Hop the twig. To drop one's leaf,* to die: see Hop the twig. *To drop on one,* to accuse or call to account without warning. Also to thrash. *To drop the scabs in,* to work button-holes. *To drop one's wax,* to evacuate or 'rear.' *To get* (or *have*) *the drop on,* to hold at disadvantage, forestall. *To have a drop in the eye,* to be slightly drunk: see Screwed (1738). *Drop it!* Cease! Cut it! Cheese it!

Drop-game. A variety of the confidence trick: The thief picks out his victim, gets in front of him, and pretends to pick up (say) a pocket-book, (snide) which he induces the greenhorn to buy for cash. The object is a Cog, and the operator a Dropper or Drop-cove.

Dropped-on. Disappointed.

Dropper. A specialist in the Drop-game (q.v.): also Drop-cove (1669).

Dropping. A beating; I'll give you a good dropping, i.e. I'll thrash you severely.

Droppings. The excrement of horses and sheep.

Drown. See Miller.

Drudge. Whisky in its raw state.

Drug. To administer a narcotic. *A drug in the market,* anything so common as not to be vendible.

Drum. 1. An entertainment; now a tea before dinner; a Kettle-drum (q.v.) (1750). 2. A road, street, or highway. English synonyms: drag, toby, high (or main) toby, pad, donbite, finger and thumb (rhyming). 3. The ear. 4. A building; *Hazard-drum,* a gambling hell; *Flash-drum,* a brothel; *Cross-drum,* a thieves' tavern; In U.S.A., a drinking place. 5. A bundle carried on tramp; generally worn as a roll over the right shoulder and under the left arm: also Bluey and Swag (q.v.). 6. A small workshop.

Drummer. 1. A horse, the action of whose forelegs is irregular (*Grose*). 2. A thief, who before robbing, narcotises or otherwise stupefies his victim. 3. A commercial traveller; also Ambassador of Commerce or Bagman (q.v.); Fr., *gaudissart* or *hirondelle.* See Drum, a road. Old-time pedlars announced themselves by beating a drum at the town's end.] (1827). 4. A trousers' maker, Kickseys'-builder (q.v.).

Drumstick-cases. Trousers: see Kicks.

Drumsticks. 1. The legs—especially of birds. English synonyms: cheese-cutters (bandy-legs), stumps, cabbage-stumps, pins, gams, notches, shanks, stems, stumps, clubs, marrow-bones, cat-sticks, trap-sticks, dripping-sticks, trams, trespassers, pegs, knights of the garter.

Drunk. A debauch; by implication, a drunkard, i.e. a drunk and disorderly person. *On the drunk,* on the drink, i.e. drinking for days on end. *Drunk as Davy's sow,* excessively drunk: see Screwed.

Drunkard. *To come the drunkard,* to feign drunkenness; also to be drunk. *To be quite the gay drunkard,* to be more or less in liquor.

Drunken-chalks. Good conduct badges: see Chalk.

Drury-Lane Ague. A venereal disease: see Ladies' Fever.

Drury-Lane Vestal. A prostitute.

Dry. See Lime-basket.

Dry-boots. A dry humorist (*Grose*).

Dry-hash. A miser; also, by implication, a loafer.

Dry-land! (rhyming). 'You understand!'

Dryland-sailor. See Turnpike Sailor.

Dry-lodging. Accommodation without board.

Dry-nurse. A guardian, bear-leader, tutor; a junior who instructs an ignorant chief in his duties (1614).

Dry-room. A prison: see Cage.

Dry-shave. Rubbing the chin with the fingers; also as a verb. The action implies a certain effrontery.

Dry-up. 1. A failure, Columbus (q.v.); contrast with Draw, sense 2. As verb, to cease talking, abandon a purpose or position, stop work. As an interjection, Hold your jaw!

Dry-walking. A hard-up soldier's outing.

D. T's. *Delirium tremens*: see Jim-jams. *The D. T., The Daily Telegraph.*

Dub. 1. A key; specifically a master key: see Locksmith's daughter (1789). As verb, to open. *Dub your mummer* › Open your mouth. *Dub the jigger*, open the door. Also by confusion, to shut or fasten (1567). *Dub at a Knapping Jigger*, a turnpike keeper. *To dub up*, to hand over, pay, fork out. Fr., *foncer, abouler*. Formerly, to lock up, secure, button one's pocket.

Dubber. 1. The mouth or tongue; mum your dubber; hold your tongue. 2. A picklock (*Grose*).

Dub-cove. See Dubsman.

Dub-lay. Using picklocks.

Dublin-dissector. A cudgel.

Dubs (Winchester College). Double.

Dubmans (or **Dubs**). A turnkey, gaoler. English synonyms: jigger-dubber, screw.

Ducats. 1. Money: see Rhino. [Probably from Shylock in 'The Merchant of Venice.'] 2. Specifically a railway ticket; also pawnbroker's duplicate, raffle-card, or Brief (q.v.). Also Ducket.

Duce. Twopence: see Rhino. [Latin.]

Duck. 1. Scraps of meat; otherwise Block-ornaments, Stickings, Faggots, Manablins, or Chuck (q.v.). 2. (Winchester College). The face. *To make a duck*, to make a grimace. 3. A draw or decoy. [An abbreviation of decoy-duck.] 4. A term of endearment; also used in admiration; e.g. a duck of a bonnet. Also ducky: duck of diamonds being a superlative. 5. A metal-cased watch; i.e. old watch movements in German silver cases. *To make a duck* (or *duck's egg*), to make no score, to crack one's egg, get a pair of spectacles. *The duck that runs* (or *grinds*) *the gospel mill*, a clergyman: see Devil-dodger. *Lame duck* (q.v. *post*). *German duck* (q.v. *post*). *To do a duck*, to hide under the seat of a public conveyance with a view to avoid paying the fare.

Ducket. See Ducat.

Duck-footed. Said of people who walk like a duck; i.e. with the toes turned inwards.

Ducking. *To go ducking*, to go courting.

Ducks. 1. Linen trousers; generally White ducks: see Kicks. 2. Aylesbury Dairy Co. shares. 3. An official of the Bombay service. *To chance the ducks* (q.v.) *ante*. *To make ducks and drakes of one's money*, to squander money as lavishly as stones are squandered at 'ducks and drakes.' [In allusion to the childish game.] (1605).

Duck's-bill. A tongue cut in a piece of stout paper and pasted on at the bottom of the tympan sheet.

Ducky (or **Duck of Diamonds**). See Duck.

Dudder (**Dudsman**, or **Duffer**). A pedlar of pretended smuggled wares—gown-pieces, silk waistcoats, etc. The term and practice are obsolete, though in a few seaports, London especially, they survived till recently in a modified form. Fr., *marottier*.

Dude. A swell, fop, masher: see Dandy. *Dudette* (or *Dudinette*), a young girl affecting the airs of a belle; *Dudine*, a female masher.

Dude-hamfatter. A wealthy pig-jobber.

Duds. Clothes; sometimes old clothes or rags (1440). *Duddery*, a clothier's booth (De Foe's *Tour of Gt. Brit.*, p. 125). In America applied to any kind of portable property. *To angle for duds*, see Anglers; *To sweat duds*, to pawn.

Dudsman. See Dudder.

Dues. Money: see Rhino: spec. a share of booty. *To tip the dues*, to pay, to hand over a share.

Duff. 1. Specifically, to sell flashy goods as pretended contraband or stolen; hence to cheat. *Duffers* (or *Men at the duff*), pedlars of flash. *Duffing*, the practice; as an adjective, spurious (1781). 2. To rub up the nap of old clothes to improve their appearance. *Duffer*, one who performs this operation, whilst the article operated upon is also a duffer by virtue of the fact itself.

Duffer. 1. A pedlar; specifically a hawker of brummagem (q.v.), and so-called smuggled goods. In the population returns of 1831 duffer, one who gets a living by cheating pawnbrokers. 2. Anything worthless or sham. 3. A female smuggler.

Duffer-out. To get exhausted.

Duffing. False, counterfeit, worthless.

Dugs. The paps; once used without reproach, of women; now only in contempt except of animals: see Dairy. [From same stem as daughter.]

Duke. 1. Gin: see Drinks. 2. A horse. 3. Any transaction in the shape of a burglary; e.g. I was jemming to their duke, I was privy to the robbery.

Duke Humphrey. See Dine.

Duke-of-Limbs. An awkward, uncouth man; specifically one with ungainly limbs (*Grose*).

Duke-of-York (rhyming slang). To walk; also, to talk.

Dukes. The hands: see Bunch of fives. *To grease the dukes*, to bribe; also to pay. *To put up the dukes*, to put up one's hands for combat.

Dukey. See Dookie and Gaff.

Dulcamara. A quack doctor. [From the name of a character in Donizetti's *l'Elixir d'Amour* (1845).]

Dull. *Dull in the eye*, intoxicated: see Screwed.

Dull-swift. A sluggish messenger.

Dumb-fogged. Confused.

Dumb-foozled. Confounded, puzzled.

Dumbfound (**Dumfound, Dumbfounding, Dumbfounded** or **Dumfoundered**). To perplex, confound, etc. (1690).

Dummacker. A knowing person.

Dummerer. See Dommerar.

Dummock. The posteriors.

Dummy. 1. A deaf mute; also an idiot; sometimes a duffer, sense 2. 2. Generic for shams: e.g. empty bottles and drawers in an apothecary's shop, wooden half-tubs of butter, bladders of lard, hams, cheeses, and so forth; dummies in libraries generally take the form of works not likely to tempt the general reader. 3. The open hand at an imperfect game of whist. 4. A pocket book.

Dummy-daddle Dodge. Picking pockets under cover of a sham hand or Daddle (q.v.).

Dummy-hunter. A pickpocket whose speciality is pocket-books.

Dump. A metal counter. As verb, (1) to throw down: e.g. to dump down coals. (2) (Winchester College). To put out. Dump the tolly! Extinguish the candle.

Dump-fencer. A button-merchant.

Dumpies. The nineteenth Hussars. [From the diminutive size of the men when the regiment was first raised.]

Dumpling-depôt. The stomach: see Bread-basket.

Dumpling-shop. The paps: see Dairy.

Dumps. Money: see Rhino. *In the dumps*, cast down, ill at ease, unpleasantly situate (1592).

Dun. An importunate creditor; as verb, to persist in demanding payment. Fr., *loup*. Also Dunner and Dunning (1663).

Dunaker. A cattle-lifter (1650).

Dunderhead. A fool: see Buffle.

Dundreary. Specifically, a stammering, foolish, and long-whiskered fop — the Lord Dundreary of *Our American Cousin* (1858) — generally, a foppish fool.

Dundrearies. A pair of whiskers cut sideways from the chin, and grown as long as possible. A fashion (now obsolete) suggested by Sothern's make-up in *Our American Cousin.*

Dung. An operative working for less than society wages. Formerly, according to Grose, 'a journeyman taylor who submits to the law for regulating journey-men taylors' wages, therefore deemed by the Flints (q.v.) a coward.'

Dung-fork (also **Dung-cart**). A country bumpkin: see Joskin.

Dunnage. Baggage; clothes. [Properly wood or loose faggots laid across the hold of a vessel, or stuffed between packages, to keep cargo from damage by water or shifting.]

Dunnakin (or Dunnyken). A privy; in U.S.A., a chamber-pot: see Mrs. Jones (*Grose*).

Dunop (back-slang). A pound.

Dup. To open (1567).

Durham-man. A knock-kneed man.

Duria. Fire.

Durrynacker. A female lace hawker; generally practised as an introduction to fortune-telling. Also Durrynacking.

Dust. Generic for money: see Rhino (1655). *To dust one's jacket*, to thrash; to criticise severely. *To get up and dust* (or *to dust out of*), to move quickly, leave hurriedly: see Bunk. *To have dust in the eyes*, to be sleepy, draw straws (q.v.). Said mainly of children: e.g. The dustman is coming. *To kick up* (or *raise*) *a dust*, to make a disturbance, or much ado (1759). *To throw dust in the eyes*, to mislead, dupe. *To bite the dust*, to knock under, be mortified, or shamed.

Dust-bin. A grave.

Dusted. Drubbed, severely criticised.

Duster. A sweetheart: see Jomer.

Dust-hole. 1. The Prince of Wales' Theatre in Tottenham Court Road. [From the fact that, fifty years ago, under the management of Mr. Glossop, the sweepings of the house were deposited and suffered to accumulate under the pit.] 2. Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. Obsolete.

Dustman. 1. A personification of sleep: *the dustman's coming,* you are getting sleepy. 2. A head man.

Dusty. *Not so dusty,* a mark of approval, not so bad, so-so.

Dusty-bob. A scavenger.

Dustypoll (or **Dusty-nob**). A miller.

Dutch. An epithet of inferiority. An echo, no doubt, of the long-standing hatred engendered by the bitter fight for the supremacy of the seas between England and Holland in the seventeenth century. As subs., a wife. [Probably an abbreviation of Dutch clock.] English synonyms: mollisher, rib, grey-mare, warming-pan, splice, lawful blanket, autem-mort, comfortable impudence, comfortable importance, old woman, evil, missus, lawful jam, yoke-fellow, night-cap, legitimate, or legiti, weight-carrier, mutton-bone, ordinary, pillow-mate, supper-table, Dutch clock, chattel, sleeping-partner, doxy, cooler, mount, bed-faggot. *To do a dutch,* to desert, run away: see Bunk. *That beats the Dutch,* a sarcastic superlative (1775). *To talk Dutch* (*Double-Dutch,* or *High-Dutch*), to talk gibberish; or, by implication, nonsense (1604). *The Dutch have taken Holland,* a quiz for stale news: cf. Queen Bess (or Queen Anne) is dead; The Ark rested upon Mount Ararat, etc.

Dutch-auction (or **sale**). A sale at minimum prices, a mock-auction.

Dutch-bargain. A bargain all on one side. 'In matters of commerce the fault of the Dutch, Is giving too little and asking too much!'

Dutch-clock. 1. A wife: cf. Dutch. 2. A bed-pan.

Dutch-concert (or **medley**). A sing-song whereat everybody sings and plays at the same time; a hubbub.

Dutch-consolation. Job's comfort, unconsoling consolation.

Dutch-courage. Pot-valiancy.

Dutch-defence. Sham defence.

Dutch-feast. An entertainment where the host gets drunk before his guests.

Dutch-gleek. Drinks.

Dutchman. *I'm a Dutchman if I do,* a strong refusal. [During the wars between England and Holland, Dutch was synonymous with all that was false and hateful; therefore, I would rather be a Dutchman,=the strongest term of refusal that words could express.]

Dutchman's-breeches. Two streaks of blue in a cloudy sky.

Dutchman's-drink. A draught that empties the pot.

Dutch-treat. An entertainment where every one pays his shot.

Dutch-uncle. *I will talk to you like a Dutch uncle,* I will reprove you smartly. [The Dutch were renowned for the brutality of their discipline.]

Dutch-widow. A prostitute (1608).

Dutch-wife. A bolster.

Eagle-takers (**The**). The Eighty-Seventh Foot. [The title was gained at Barossa (1811), when it captured the eagle of the 8th French Light Infantry. Its colours also bear the plume of the Prince of Wales and the harp and crown, an eagle with a wreath of laurel.] It was also nicknamed The old Fogs; also The Faugh-a-Ballagh Boys, from *Fag an bealac!* Clear the Way, the regimental march, and the war-cry at Barossa.

Ear. *To send away with a flea in the ear,* to dismiss peremptorily and with a scolding: Fr., *mettre la puce à l'oreille* (1764). *To bite the ear*: see Bite. *To get up on one's ear,* to bestir oneself, to rouse oneself for an effort.

Earl of Cork. The ace of diamonds.

Earl of Mar's Grey Breeks (**The**). The Twenty-First Foot. [In allusion to the colour of the men's breeches and to the original title of the regiment, The Earl of Mar's Fuzileers.] Obsolete.

Early. *To get up early*, to be astute, ready, wide-awake: cf. It's the early bird that catches the worm (1738).

Early-riser. An aperient: cf. Custom-house officer, and Two gunners and a driver.

Early-worm. A man who searches the streets at daybreak for cigar stumps.

Earth-bath. A grave. *To take an earth-bath*, to be buried; cf. ground sweat.

Earthquake. *Bottled earthquake*, intoxicating drinks.

Earth-stoppers. Horse's feet.

Earthy. Gross, common, devoid of soul.

Ear-wig. A private prompter or flatterer; also (thieves') a clergyman. [From the popular delusion that the ear-wig lodges itself in the ear with a view to working its way into the brain, when it causes death.] (1639). As verb, to prompt, influence by covert statements, whisper insinuations.

Ease. To rob; Fr., *soulager*: cf. Annex and Convey. *To ease a bloke*, to rob a man (1630).

Eason. To tell.

East-and-South (rhyming slang). The mouth; also Sunny south: see Potato trap.

Eastery. Private business.

Easy. *To make easy*, to gag or kill (*Grose*). *Easy as damn it* (or *as my eye*), excessively easy, Easy as lying [Shakespeare]. *Easy does it!* An exclamation of encouragement and counsel, Take your time and keep your coat on. *Easy over the pimples* (or *over the stones*), an injunction to go slow, or, mind what you're about.

Easy Virtue. See Lady of Easy Virtue.

Eat. To provision: e.g. a steamer is said to be able to eat 400 passengers and sleep about half that number. *Eat coke*: see Coke. *Eat crow*: see Crow. *Eat a fig* (rhyming slang), to crack a crib, to break a house. *To eat one's head off*, to be retained for service and stand idle; also to cost more in keep than one is worth. *Eat one's head* (*hat, boots*, etc.), a locution of emphatic asseveration. [Probably Dickensonian, influenced by the proverbial saying, To eat one's heart out — to undergo intense struggle, and also To eat one's head off (q.v.). *To eat one's terms*, to go through the prescribed course of study for admission to the bar. [In allusion to the dinners a student has to attend in the public hall of his inn.] *To eat one's words*, to retract a statement, own a lie. *To eat up*, to vanquish, ruin. [Originally Zulu.]

Eaves. A hen-roost.

Eavesdropper. A chicken thief; also generally, any petty pilferer.

Ebenezer (Winchester College). A stroke at fives: when the ball hits 'line' at such an angle as to rise perpendicularly into the air.

Ebony. 1. A negro; otherwise Blackbird (q.v.) and Black Ivory. Thomas Fuller (1608-1661) spoke of the negro race as God's images cut in ebony. 2. The publisher of *Maga*: i.e. Blackwood.

Ebony-optics. Black eyes. *Ebony-optics albonized*, black eyes painted white.

Edgabac (back slang). Cabbage.

Edge. *Stitched off the edge*, said of a glass not filled to the top. *Side-edge*, whiskers. *Short top edge*, a turn-up nose or Celestial (q.v.). *Edge in*, to slip in, insinuate, e.g. to edge in a word (or a remark). *Edge off* (or *out of*), to slink away, gradually desist. *To take the edge off* [a thing, or person, or idea], to become acquainted with, enjoy to satiety: see *Hamlet*, III. ii. 'It would cost you a groaning to take off my edge.'

Edgenaro (back slang). An orange.

Edge-ways. *Not able to get a word in edge-ways*, having but the barest opportunity of taking part in a discussion.

Eel-skins. Tight trousers: see Kicks.

E-fink (back slang). A knife.

Efter. A theatre thief.

Egg. See Bad egg. *Egg on*, to encourage. *Sure as eggs is eggs*, of a certainty, without doubt. [From the formula, '*x is x*.'] *To teach one's grandmother to roast* (or *suck*) *eggs*, to lecture elders and superiors; Fr., *les oisons veulent mener les oies paître* (the goslings want to drive the geese to pasture).

Egham, Staines, and Windsor. A three-cornered coachman's hat.

Egyptian-hall (rhyming slang). A ball.

Eighter. An eight-ounce loaf.

Ekame (back slang). A Make (q.v.), swindle.

Ekom (back slang). A Moke (q.v.) or donkey.

Elbow. To turn a corner, get out of sight. *To shake the elbow,* to play dice. [From the motion of the arm in casting.] (1680). *To crook the elbow,* to drink: see Lush.

Elbow-crooker. A hard drinker. English synonyms: borachio, boozington, brewer's horse, bubber, budger, mop, lushington, worker of the cannon, wet-quaker, soaker, lapper, pegger, angel altogether, bloat, ensign-bearer, fiddle-cup, sponge, tun, toss-pot, swill-pot, wet subject, shifter, potster, swallower, pot-walloper, wetster, dramster, drinkster, beer-barrel, ginnums, lowerer, moist 'un, drainist, boozer, mopper-up, piss-maker, thirstington.

Elbower. A runaway.

Elbow-grease. Energetic and continuous manual labour: e.g. Elbow-grease is the best furniture oil: Fr., *huile de bras* or *de poignet*; du *foulage* (1779).

Elbow-scraper (or **Jigger**). A fiddler.

Elbow-shaker. A gambler (1748).

Elbow-shaking. Gambling.

Electrified. 1. Moderately drunk: see Screwed. 2. Violently startled.

Elegant. Excellent.

Elegant Extracts. 1. The Eighty-Fifth Foot. [This regiment was remodelled in 1812, after a long sequence of court-martials: when the officers were removed, and others set in their room.] 2. (Cambridge University). Students who, though 'plucked,' were still given their degrees. A line was drawn below the poll-list, and those allowed to pass were nicknamed the elegant extracts. There was a similar limbo in the honour-list, called the Gulf: for 'Between them (*in the poll*) and us (*in the honour lists*) there is a great gulf fixed.']

Elephant. A wealthy victim. *To see the elephant,* 1. To see the world, go out for wool and come home shorn; by implication, to go on the loose: sometimes, To see the King. 2. To be seduced; Fr., *avoir vu le loup.*

Elephant-dance. See Cellar-flap and Double-shuffle.

Elephant's-trunk (rhyming slang). Drunk: see Screwed.

Elevated. Drunk: see Screwed. (1664).

Elfen. To walk lightly, go on tiptoe.

Ellenborough-Lodge (Spike, or Park). The King's Bench Prison. [From Ld. Chief-Justice Ellenborough. *Ellenborough's teeth,* the *chevaux de frize* round the prison wall.

Elrig (back slang). A girl.

Elycampane (or **Elecampane**). See Allacompain.

Emag (back slang). Game: e.g. I know your little emag.

Embroider. To exaggerate, add to the truth.

Embroidery. Exaggeration: the American sass and trimmins (q.v.).

Emma. See Whoa Emma.

Emperor. A drunken man. [An intensification of, Drunk as a lord; whence, Drunk as an emperor.] Fr., *saoul comme trente mille hommes,* or *un âne.*

Empty the Bag. See Bag.

Encumbrances. Children: see Certainties and Uncertainties.

End. *To be all on end,* to be very angry, irritated. Also expectant. *At loose ends,* neglected, precarious. *End on,* straight, full-tilt. *To keep one's end up,* to rub along.

Enemy. Time: e.g. How goes the enemy, what's o'clock? *To kill the enemy,* to kill time.

English Burgundy. Porter: see Drinks.

Enif. Fine.

Enin-gen. Nine shillings. Enin yanneps, ninepence.

Eno (back slang). One.

Ensign-bearer. A drunkard; especially with red nose and blotchy face: see Lushington.

Ephesian. A boon companion, spreester: cf. Corinthian.

Epip (back slang). A pipe.

Epsom-races (rhyming slang). A pair of braces.

Equipped. Rich, well-dressed, in good circumstances.

Erif (back slang). Fire.

Eriff. A young thief.

Errand. *To send a baby on an*

errand, to undertake what is pretty sure to turn out badly.

Error. See No error.

Erth (back slang). Three. *Erth gen*, three shillings. *Erth-pu*, Three-up, a street game, played with three halfpence. *Erth sith-noms*, Three months' imprisonment; a drag. *Erth yanneps*, Threepence.

Esclop (back slang). A police-constable; esclop is pronounced 'slop' the *c* is never sounded: see Beak.

Es-roch (back slang). A horse: see Prad.

Essex-lion. A calf: e.g. as valiant as an Essex-lion: cf. Cotswold Lion, Cambridgeshire Nightingale, etc.

Essex-stile. A ditch.

Esuch (back slang). A horse: see Ken.

Eternity-box. A coffin. English synonyms: cold meat box, wooden surtout, coffee-shop, deal suit.

Evaporate. To run away, to disappear: see Bunk.

Evatch (back slang). To have: e.g. Evatch a kool at the elrig, Have a look at the girl.

Everlasting-shoes (also Everlastings). The naked feet: see Creepers.

Everlasting-staircase. The treadmill.

Everton - toffee (rhyming slang). Coffee.

Everything is lovely and the goose hangs high. Everything is going swimmingly. [An allusion to the sport of gander pulling. A gander was plucked, thoroughly greased, especially about the head and neck, and tied tight by the feet to the branch of a tree. The game was then to ride furiously at the mark, catch it by the head or neck, and attempt to bear it away. With every failure the fun would get more uproarious.]

Evif (back slang). Five. *Evif-gen*, a crown, or five shillings. *Evif-yanneps*, fivepence.

Evil. A wife: see Dutch.

Evlenet-gen (back slang). Twelve shillings. *Evlenet sithnoms*, twelve months: generally known as a stretch.

Ewe. See White-ewe and Old ewe.

Ewe-mutton. An elderly strumpet, or piece.

Exalted. Hanged: see Ladder.

Exam. An abbreviation of Examination.

Exasperate. To over-aspirate the letter H.

Excellers. The Fortieth Foot. [A pun upon its number, xl + ers.]

Excruciators. Tight boots; especially with pointed toes.

Execution-day. Washing day.

Exes. 1. An abbreviation of expenses. 2. An abbreviation of ex-officials, ex-ministers, and so forth. As in Tom Moore's 'We x's have proved ourselves not to be wise.'

Exis-evif-gen (back slang). Six times five shillings, i.e. 30s. All monies may be reckoned in this manner, either with yanneps or gens. Exis-evif-yanneps, literally, sixpence and fivepence, elevenpence. Exis gen, six shillings. Exis sith-noms, six-months. Exis yanneps, sixpence.

Expecting. With child.

Experience Does it. A dog-English rendering of *Experienta docet.*

Explaterate. To hold forth, explain in detail. [From O.E. Explate =to unfold.]

Explosion. A delivery in childbed.

Exquisite. A fop: see Dandy.

Extensive. Formerly applied to a person's appearance or talk; rather extensive that! intimating that the person alluded to is showing off, or cutting it fat.

Extinguisher. A dog's muzzle.

Ex Trumps (Winchester College). Extempore. *To go up to books ex trumps*, to go to class without preparing one's lessons.

Eye. See All my eye. *To pull wool over the eyes*: see Wool. *To keep the eyes clean* (*skinned*, or *peeled*), to be watchful, alert, with all one's wits about one. *To have a drop in the eye*, to be drunk: see Screwed. *In the twinkling of an eye*: see Bedpost. *To bet one's eyes*: see Bet. *My eyes!* An expression of surprise.

Eyelashes. *To hang on by the eyelashes* (or *eyebrows*), to be very tenacious; also by implication, to be in a difficulty: cf. Hang on by the splash board.

Eye-limpet. An artificial eye.

Eye-opener. 1. Drink generally; specifically, a mixed drink. 2. Anything surprising or out of the way.

Eyeteeth. *To have cut one's eye-teeth*, to have learned wisdom.

Eye-water. Gin: see Drinks.

Face. 1. Confidence, boldness, also (more frequently) impudence: e.g. I like your face, I like your cheek. Once literary; cf. Check, Jaw, Gab, Brow, Mouth, Lip, etc. (1610). 2. Credit. *To push one's face*, to get credit by bluster (1765). 3. A qualification of contempt: e.g. Now face! where are you a-shoving of?' As verb, to bully (1593): also *to face* (or *outface*) *with a card of ten*, to browbeat, bluff. [Nares: derived from some game (possibly *primero*) wherein the standing boldly upon a *ten* was often successful.] (1460). *To face the knocker*, to go begging: see Cadge. *To have no face but one's own*, to be penniless, or (gamesters') to hold no court cards: Fr., *n'avoir pas une face*, to have not a sou. *To make faces*, to go back, or 'round' upon a friend. *To face the music*, to meet an emergency, show one's hand.

Face - entry. Freedom of access, the personal appearance being familiar to attendants.

Facer. 1. A blow in the face (*Grose*). 2. A sudden check, spoke in one's wheel. 3. A dram. 4. A bumper (*Grose*). 5. A tumbler of whisky punch. 6. An accomplice, stall (q.v.), fence (q.v.).

Facey. A fellow *vis-à-vis*, workman. *Facey on the bias*, one in front either to right or left; *Facey on the two thick*, one working immediately behind one's opposite.

Facings. *To be put* (or *go*), *through one's facings*, to be called to account or scolded, to exemplify capacity; to show off. *Silk-facings*, stains upon work caused by beer droppings.

Fad-cattle. Easy women.

Faddist (or Fadmonger). A person (male or female) devoted to the pursuit of public fads: as social purity, moral art, free - trade in syphilis, and so-forth.

Faddle. To toy, trifle: as a subs., a busybody, a 'nancified,' affected, male. Also *Faddy*, full of fads.

Fadge. A farthing. English synonyms: fiddler, farden, gig, (or grig), quartereen. As verb, to suit, fit, agree with, come off. [Nares: probably never better than a low word: it is now confined to the streets] (1596).

Fadger. A glazier's frame, a 'frail.'

Fadmonger. A Faddist (q.v.). *Fadmongering*, dealing as a Faddist with fads.

Fag. 1. A boy doing menial work for a schoolfellow in a higher form. As verb, to act as a fag. 2. Christ's Hospital). Eatables. 3. A lawyer's clerk. 4. A cigarette.

Fag. See subs. To beat.

Fagger (Figger, or Figure). A boy thief employed to enter houses by windows and either open the doors to his confederates as Oliver Twist with Bill Sykes), or hand out the swag to them; also Little snakesman (q.v.): cf. Diver.

Fagging (or **Faggery**). Waiting upon and doing menial work for a schoolfellow in a higher form. Also used adjectively.

Faggot. 1. A woman, baggage: in contempt. [Once a popular symbol of recantation: heretics who had thus escaped the stake were required either to bear a faggot and burn it in public, or to wear an imitation on the sleeve as a badge.] Also *Bed-* (or *Straw-*) faggot, a wife, or mistress; *Tumble-faggot*, a whore-master; *Carry - faggot*, a mattress. 2. A sort of cake, roll, or ball, a number being baked at a time, made of chopped liver and lights, mixed with gravy, and wrapped in pieces of pig's caul. It weighs six ounces, so that it is unquestionably a cheap [it costs 1d. hot] and, to the scavenger, a savoury meal, but to other nostrils its odour is not seductive (*Mayhew*). 3. A dummy soldier; one hired to appear at a muster to hide deficiencies. Many names of dummies would appear on the muster-roll: for these the colonel drew pay, but they were never in the ranks: obsolete, see Widow's - man (1672). As verb, to bind hand and foot, to tie [as sticks into a faggot]: Fr., *un fagot*, a convict, because bound to a common chain on their way to the hulks.

Faggot-briefs. Bundles of dummy papers sometimes carried by briefless barristers.

Faggot-vote. A vote secured by the purchase of property under mortgage, or otherwise, so as to constitute a nominal qualification without a substantial basis.

Fains! (Fainits! Fain it!) A call for truce during the progress of a game without which priority or place would be lost; generally understood to be preferred in bounds, or when out of danger: see Bags!

Fair-gang. Gypsies.

Fair-rations. Fair dealings.

Fair-shake. A good bargain: see Shake.

Fair-trade. Smuggling.

Faithful. *One of the faithful* (1) A drunkard: see Lushington (1609). (2) A tailor giving long credit (*Grose*).

Faithful Durhams. The Sixty-Eighth Footh.

Fake. An action, proceeding, manœuvre, mechanical contrivance—an affair of any kind irrespective of morals or legality: generally used in a sense specifically detrimental. In America, a swindler. As verb, (1) to do anything; to fabricate, cheat, deceive, devise falsely, steal, forge: a general verb-of-all-work. In America, fix (q.v.) is employed much in the same way: Fr., *faire.* Also, *To fake a screeve*, to write a begging letter; *to fake one's slangs*, to file through one's fetters; *to fake a cly* (q.v.), to pick a pocket; *to fake the sweetener*, to kiss; *to fake the duck*, to adulterate, dodge; *to fake the rubber*, to stand treat; *to fake the broads*, to pack the cards, or to work the three-cark trick; *to fake a line* (theatrical), to improvise a speech; *to fake a dance* (*a step*, or *a trip*) theatrical), to perform what looks like, but is not, dancing. (2) To hocus, nobble, tamper. (3) To paint one's face, make up a character. Also to fake up. (4) To cut out the wards of a key. *Fake away!* an ejaculation of encouragement.

Fake-boodle. See Boodle.

Faked. Counterfeit: sometimes Faked-up: Fr., *lophe.*

Fakement. 1. A counterfeit signature, forgery: specifically a begging letter or petition: Fr., *brasser des faffes*, to forge documents, i.e. To screeve fakements. 2. Generic for dishonest practices; but applied to any kind of action, contrivance, or trade: see Fake. 3. Small properties, accessories.

Fakement-Charley. An owner's private mark.

Faker. 1. One who makes, does, or fakes anything; specifically a thief. Found in many combinations: e.g. Bit-faker, Flue-faker, Grub-faker, Sham-faker, Twat-faker, etc. 2. A circus rider or performer.

Fakes and Slumboes. Properties, accessories of any kind.

Faking. The act of doing anything: Fr., *maquillage* (or *goupinage*).

Fall. 1. To be arrested. 2. To conceive: see Lumpy.

Fall of the Leaf (The). Hanging: see Ladder.

False-hereafter. A bustle: see Bird-cage.

Fam. See Fambling-cheat and Famble.

Famble (Fam, or Fem). The hand: see Fambling-cheat: see Bunch of fives and Daddle. As verb, to touch, to handle, especially with a view to ascertaining the whereabouts of valuables. Also *To fam* for the plant: see To run a rule over.

Famblers (Fambling-cheats, or Fam-snatchers). Gloves.

Fambling-cheat (Famble, or Fam). A ring; also (about 1694) gloves, which later still were also called Fam-snatchers (q.v.) (1560).

Fam-grasp. To shake hands: also subs., hand-shaking.

Familiars. Lice: see Chates.

Familiar-way. With child.

Family-disturbance. Whisky: see Drinks.

Family-hotel. A prison: see Cage.

Family-man. A thief; specifically, a fence (q.v.). [In allusion to the fraternities into which thieves were at one time invariably banded.] (1749).

Family-plate. Silver money: see Rhino.

Family-pound. A family grave.

Fam-lay. Shoplifting.

Fam-snatchers. Gloves: cf. Fambling-cheat.

Fam-squeeze. Strangulation.

Fam-struck. Baffled in ascertaining the whereabouts of valuables on the person of an intended victim; also handcuffed.

Fan. A waistcoat; said by Hotten (1864) to be a Houndsditch term, but quoted in Matsell (1859) as American. English synonyms: ben, benjie, M.B.

waistcoat, Charley Prescot. As verb, (1) to beat, to be-rate. (2) To feel, handle (with a view to ascertain if a victim has anything valuable about his person). Also to steal from the person. *Queen Anne's fan*: see *post*.

Fancy. The fraternity of pugilists: prize-fighting being once regarded as *The fancy, par excellence*. Hence, by implication, people who cultivate a special hobby or taste.

Fancy-bloke. 1. A sporting man. 2. See Fancy-man.

Fancy-house. A brothel.

Fancy-Joseph. An Apple-squire (q.v.), Cupid.

Fancy-lay. Pugilism.

Fancy-man (or **bloke**). A prostitute's lover, husband, or pensioner. English synonyms: apple-squire, faker, bully, ponce, pensioner, Sunday-man, fancy-Joseph, squire of the body, apron-squire, petticoat pensioner, prosser, twat-faker, twat-master, stallion, mack, bouncer, bruiser, buck.

Fancy-piece. A prostitute.

Fancy-work. *To take in fancy work*, to play the harlot.

Fang-faker. A dentist.

Fanning. 1. Stealing; *Cross-fanning*, robbery from the person, the arms of the manipulator being folded. 2. A beating.

Fanny Adams. Tinned mutton.

Fanny Blair. The hair.

Fantail. A sort of round hat with a long leathern fan-shaped flap at the back; worn by coal-heavers and dustmen; a Sou'-wester (q.v.).

Fanteague. *On the Fanteague*, on the burst, or loose.

Far-back. An indifferent workman, ignoramus.

Farden. A farthing: see Rhino. Fadge.

Farm. 1. An establishment where pauper or illegitimate children were lodged and fed at so much a head. Also verbally, to contract to feed and lodge pauper or illegitimate children. 2. The prison infirmary. *To fetch the farm*, to be ordered infirmary diet and treatment: see Fetch.

Farmer. 1. An alderman. 2. One who contracts to lodge and feed pauper or illegitimate children.

Farthing. *To care not a brass farthing*, to care nothing. Chaucer uses the expression 'no farthing of grease' as equivalent to a small quantity.

Fast. 1. Embarrassed, hard-up, in a tight place. 2. Dissipated, addicted to going the pace: e.g. a fast man, a rake-hell, or spendthrift; a fast woman, a strumpet; a fast life, a life of debauchery; a fast house, a brothel, or a sporting tavern; to dress fast, to dress for the town; to live fast, to go the pace, and so forth (1751). 3. Impudent, cheeky: e.g. Don't you be so fast, Mind your own business. *To play fast and loose*, to be variable, inconstant, say one thing and do another.

Fastener (or **Fastner**). A warrant.

Fat. 1. Money: Fr., *graisse*: see Rhino. 2. Composition full of blank spaces or in short lines. Verse is frequently fat, while this dictionary, with its constant change of type, is lean (q.v.). Hence, work that pays well: Fr., *affaire juteuse*. 3. A good part; telling lines and conspicuous or commanding situations: Fr., *des côtelettes*. As adj., (1) rich, abundant, profitable. (2) Good. *Cut it fat*: see Cut. *Cut up fat*: see Cut up. *All the fat's in the fire*, said of failures and of the results of sudden and unexpected revelation, disappointments: i.e. it is all over or up with a person or thing. A late equivalent is, And then the band played. *Fat as a hen's forehead*, meagre, skinny (q.v.).

Fat- (Barge-, Broad- or Heavy-) arsed. Broad in the breech; and, by implication (in Richard Baxter's *Shove to Heavy Arsed Christians*), thick-witted and slow to move.

Fat- (or Thick-) chops. A contumelious epithet.

Fater (Faytor, or Fator). A fortune-teller. In Spencer, a doer; in Bailey, an idle fellow, vagabond: Fr., *faiteur*.

Fat-flab (Winchester School). A cut off the fat part of a breast of mutton: see Cat's-head.

Fat- (or Full-) guts. An opprobrious epithet for a fat man or woman.

Fat-head. A dolt. *Fat-headed (-skulled, -thoughted, -pated, -grained,* or *-witted)*, dull, stupid, slow.

Father. 1. A receiver of stolen property, fence (q.v.). 2. A chief in authority, elder: e.g. *The father of the house*, the oldest member of the

House of Commons (cf. Babe); among printers, the chairman of the Chapel (q.v.), the intermediary between master and men; in naval circles, the builder of a man-of-war or Government 'bottom.'

Father Derbie's Bands. See Darbies.

Father's Brother. A pawnbroker, My uncle (q.v.).

Fat Jack of the Bone-house. A contumelious epithet for a very stout man.

Fatness. Wealth: *Fat*, rich.

Fatten-up. To write Fat (subs., sense 3) into a part.

Fat-'un. An emission of peculiar rankness, 'roarer' (*Swift*).

Fatty (Fatymus, or Fattyma). A jocular epithet for a fat man; a comic endearment for a fat woman.

Faugh-a-Ballagh Boys. The Eighty-Seventh Foot; also known as the Eagle-takers (q.v.), and the Old Fogs (q.v.). [From *Fag an bealac*, Clear the Way, the regimental march.]

Faulkner. A tumbler, juggler.

Fawney (or Fauney). 1. A ring: Fr., *brobuante*, *broquille*, *chason*. 2. A swindle (also *Fawney-dropping*, or *rig*), worked as follows:—A ring (snide) is let drop in front of a passer-by, who picks it up, and is confronted by the dropper, who claims to share. In consideration of immediate settlement he offers to accept something less than the apparent value in *cash*. Also done with pocket-books, meerschaum pipes, etc. *Fawney-dropper*, one that practices the ring-dropping trick; *Fawney-bouncing*, selling rings for a pretended wager; *Fawnied*, ringed (1789).

Feager. 'One that beggeth with counterfeit writings' (*Rowlands*, 1610).

Feague. To send packing, whiff away.

Feak. The fundament.

Feather. 1. Kind, species, company: cf. Birds of a feather: see Kidney (1608). 2. In pl., money, wealth: see Rhino. *In full feather* (1), rich. (2) In full costume; with all one's war paint on. *In high* (or *full*) *feather*, elated, brilliant, conspicuous. *To feather one's nest*, to amass money; specifically to enrich oneself by indirect pickings and emoluments (1590). *To feather an oar*, in rowing, to turn the blade horizontally, with the upper edge pointing aft, as it leaves the water, for the purpose of lessening the resistance of the air upon it. *To show the white feather*, to turn cur, prove oneself a coward. [Among game cocks a cross-bred bird is known by a white feather in the tail. Of old the breed was strictly preserved in England, for though birds of all descriptions were reared in the farm-yard, special care was taken that game fowls did not mix with them; but this would occasionally happen, and while the game birds were only red and black, white feathers would naturally appear when there was any cross. The slightest impurity of strain was said to destroy the bird's courage, and the half-breeds were never trained for the pit. It became an adage that any cock would fight on his own dunghill, but it must be one without a white feather to fight in the pit.]

Feather-bed and pillows. A fat woman.

Feather-bed Lane. A rough or stony lane.

Feather-bed Soldier (old colloquial). A practised and determined loose liver.

Feck. To discover a safe way of stealing or swindling.

Feed. A meal, Spread (q.v.), Blow-out (q.v.): Fr., *lampie*. As verb (1), to support, back up. (2) To prompt. (3) To teach or cram (q.v.) for an examination. *At feed*, at meat. *To be off one's feed*, to have a distaste for food. *To feed the fishes*, to be sea-sick; also to be drowned. *To feed the press*, to send up copy slip by slip.

Feeder. 1. A spoon; among thieves a silver spoon. *To nab a feeder*, to steal a spoon (*Grose*). 2. A tutor, crammer (q.v.). coach (q.v.) (1766).

Feeding-bottle. The paps: see Dairy.

Feel. See Bones.

Feele. A girl or daughter: see Titter: Fr., *fille*; It., *figlia*. *Feeles*, mother and daughter.

Feeler. 1. A device or remark designed to bring out the opinions of others. 2. The hand: see Bunch of Fives.

Feet. *Making feet for children's stockings*, begetting or breeding children. *Officer of feet*, an officer of infantry (*Grose*). *How's your poor* *feet?* a street catch phrase in the early part of the sixties. [Henry Irving's revival of 'The Dead Heart' revived this bit of slang.... When the play was brought out originally, where one of the characters says, 'My heart is dead, dead, dead!' a voice from the gallery nearly broke up the drama with 'How are your poor feet? The phrase lived.]

Feet-casements. Boots or shoes: see Trotter-cases.

Feeze (Feaze, Feize, or Pheeze). To beat.

Feint. A pawnbroker: see My uncle.

Feker. Trade, profession.

Fell. *Fell a bit on*, to act craftily, in an underhand manner.

Fell-and-didn't. Said of a man walking lame.

Fellow. See Old fellow.

Fellow-commoner. An empty bottle: see Dead man (1794).

Felt. A hat of felted wool: see Golgotha (1609).

Fem. See Famble.

Fen. A prostitute (*Grose*). As verb (also Fend, Fain, Fainits, etc.), a term of warning, or of prohibition: as to prevent any change in the existing conditions of a game; e.g. at marbles, *Fen-placings*, no alteration in position of marbles is permissible; *Fen-clearances*, removal of obstacles is forbidden.

Fence. 1. A purchaser or receiver of stolen goods. English synonyms: fencing master (or cully), billy-fencer, angling cove, stallsman, Ikey, family-man, father (1714). 2. A place where stolen goods are purchased or received: Fr., *moulin*. As verb, (1) to purchase or receive stolen goods (1610). (2) To spend money (1728). *To be* (*sit*, or *ride*) *on the fence*, to be neutral, ready to join the winning side, to wait to see how the cat will jump: also, *to sit on both sides of the hedge*. Those who thus seek to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds are called Fence-men. The operation is Fence-riding, which sometimes qualifies for rail-riding (q.v.).

Fencer. A hawker of small wares, tramp: generally used in connection with another word; thus, Driz-fencer (q.v.), a pedlar of lace.

Fencing-crib (or ken). A place where stolen goods are purchased or secreted.

Fencing-cully. A receiver of stolen goods.

Fen-nightingale. A frog: also Cambridgeshire, and Cape Nightingale.

Ferguson. *You can't lodge here, Mr. Ferguson*, a street cry, popular about 1845-50; used in derision or denial. [Mr. J. H. Dixon, writing to Mr. John Camden Hotten, under date Nov. 6, 1864, says the phrase originated thus:—A young Scotsman, named Ferguson, visited Epsom races, where he got very drunk. His friends applied to several hotel keepers to give him a bed, but in vain. There was no place for Mr. Ferguson. He was accordingly driven to London by his companions, who kept calling out, Ferguson, you can't lodge here. This was caught up by the crowd, repeated, and in a week was all over London, and in a month all over the kingdom. Mr Dixon states he was introduced to Mr. Ferguson, and that two of his companions were intimate friends.]

Ferm. A hole: with Spencer, a prison (1632).

Ferret. 1. A barge-thief. 2. A dunning tradesman. 3. A pawnbroker: see My uncle. *To ferret out*, to be at pains to penetrate a mystery of any kind by working underground.

Ferricadouzer. A knock-down blow, a thrashing.

Fess. To confess, own up: Fr., *norguer*. As adj., proud.

Festive. Loud, fast; a kind of general utility word. *Gay and festive cuss* (Artemus Ward), a rollicking companion.

Fetch. 1. A stratagem; indirectly bringing something to pass (1576). 2. A success. 3. A likeness: e.g. the very fetch of him, his very image or spit (q.v.): also an apparition. As verb, (1) to please, excite admiration, arouse attention or interest (1607). (2) To get, do. Some combinations are *To fetch the farm*, to get infirmary treatment and diet; *to fetch a stinger*, (colloquial), to get in a heavy blow; *to fetch a lagging* (thieves'), to serve one's term; *to fetch a howl*, to cry; *to fetch a crack*, to strike; *to fetch a circumbendibus*, to make a detour; *to fetch the brewer*, to get drunk. *To fetch away*, to part; e.g. A fool and his money are soon fetched away. *To* *fetch up*, 1. to stop; to run against. 2. To startle. 3. To come to light. 4. To recruit one's strength after illness. *Fetching*, attractive (as of women), pleasing (as of a dress or bonnet).

Fettle. *In good* (or *in proper*) *fettle*, drunk.

Few. *A few* (or *Just a few*), originally a little. Hence, by implication, on the *lucus a non lucendo* principle, considerably; e.g. Were you alarmed? No, but I was astonished a few! i.e. I was greatly surprised: cf. Rather, a good deal (1778).

Fib. 1. To beat, specifically (pugilism) to get in a quick succession of blows, as when you get your man round the neck (i.e. in chancery) and pommel his ribs and face (1665). 2. To lie (1694). Also, used substantively, (1) a lie, (2) a liar (1738).

Fibber. A liar (1748).

Fibbery. Lying.

Fibbing. 1. Pummelling an opponent's head while 'in chancery,' drubbing: Fr., *bordée de coups de poings*. 2. Lying.

Fibbing-gloak. A pugilist.

Fibbing-match. A prize-fight.

Fibster. A liar.

Fiddle. 1. A sharper; sometimes Old fiddle: see Rook. 2. A swindle: see Sell. 3. A whip. 4. A fiddle on which to play a tune called 'Four pounds of oakum a day'—a piece of rope and a long crooked nail. 5. (Stock Exchange). One sixteenth part of a pound. 6. A watchman's (or policeman's) rattle. 7. A sixpence: see Rhino, and cf. Fiddler's money. As verb, (1) to trifle, especially with the hands (1663). (2) To cheat, specifically, to gamble. (3) To earn a livelihood by doing small jobs on the street. (4) To intrigue. (5) To strike. *Scotch fiddle*, the itch. *To hang up the fiddle*, to abandon an undertaking. *To play first* (or *second*) *fiddle*, to take a leading or a subordinate part. Among tailors second fiddle, an unpleasant task. *Fit as a fiddle*, in good form or condition. See Fiddle-de-dee.

Fiddle-faced. Wizened, also substantively.

Fiddle-faddle. Twaddling, trifling, 'little nothings,' rot (q.v.): Fr., *oui, les lanciers!* (1593). As adj., trifling, fussy, fluffing (1712). As verb, to toy, trifle, talk nonsense, gossip, make much cry and little wool. (1761). Also **Fiddle-faddler**, one inclined to Fiddle-faddles.

Fiddle-head. A plain prow as distinguished from a figure-head: Hence Fiddle-headed, plain, ugly.

Fiddler. 1. A trifler, a careless, negligent, or dilatory person. 2. A sharper, cheat; also Fiddle (q.v.). 3. A prize-fighter; one who depends more on activity than upon strength or stay. 4. A sixpence. [From the old custom of each couple at a dance paying the fiddler a sixpence: cf. Fiddler's-money.] 5. A farthing: see Rhino.

Fiddlers'-fare. Meat, drink, and money (*Grose*).

Fiddlers'-green. A sailor's elysium (situate on the hither and cooler side of hell) of wine, women, and song.

Fiddlers'-money. Sixpences: see Rhino. [From the custom at country merry-makings of each couple paying the fiddler sixpence.] Also generically, small silver.

Fiddlestick! Nonsense: sometimes Fiddlestick's end and Fiddle-de-dee (1610). As subs., A spring saw. 2. A sword.

Fiddling. 1. A livelihood got on the streets, holding horses, carrying parcels, etc. 2. Buying a thing for a mere trifle, and selling it for double, or for more. 3. Idling, trifling. 4. Gambling. As adj., trifling, trivial, fussing with nothing (1667).

Fid-fad. A contracted form of Fiddle-faddle (q.v.); also applied to persons (1754).

Fidlam-bens (or **coves**). Thieves who steal anything they can lay hands on: also St. Peter's sons.

Field. *To chop the field*, to win easily.

Fielder. A backer of the field i.e. the ruck (q.v.), as against the favourite]. At cricket, a player in the field as against those at the wickets.

Field-lane Duck. A baked sheep's head.

Fient (Scots colloquial). An expression of negation: e.g. Fient a hair care I, Devil a hair I care.

Fieri Facias. *To have been served with a writ of fieri facias*, said of a red-nosed man. [A play upon words.] (1594).

Fiery Lot. Fast (q.v.), rollicking, applied to a hot member (q.v.).

Fiery Snorter. A red nose.

Fifer. 1. A waistcoat hand. 2. A native of the Kingdom (q.v.), i.e. the county of Fife.

Fi-fi (or **fie-fie**). Indecent, blue, or smutty.

Fifteener. A book printed in the 15th century.

Fifth Rib. *To hit* (*dig*, or *poke*) *one under the fifth rib*, to deliver a heavy blow, dumbfound.

Fig. 1. A gesture of contempt made by thrusting forth the thumb between the fore and middle fingers; whence the expression, I do not care, or would not give, a fig for you: Fr., *je ne voudrais pas en donner un ferret d'aiguillette*: see other similes of worthlessness, Curse, Straw, Rush, Chip, Cent, Dam, etc. (1599). [Italian: When the Milanese revolted against the Emperor Frederick Barbarossa they set his Empress hind before upon a mule, and thus expelled her. Frederick afterwards besieged and took the city, and compelled all his prisoners, on pain of death, to extract with his (or her) teeth a fig from the fundament of a mule and, the thing being done, to say in announcement, *Ecco la fica*. Thus *far la fica* became a universal mode of derision. Fr., *faire la figue*; Ger., *die Feigen weisen*; It., *far le fiche*; Dutch, *De vyghe setten*. 2. Dress. *In full fig*, in full dress. As verb, to ginger a horse. *To fig out*, to show off, dress; don one's war paint (q.v.). *To fig up*, to restore, reanimate (as a gingered horse).

Figaro. A barber. [From *Le Nozze di Figaro.*]

Figdean. To kill: see Cook one's Goose.

Figged. See Jigged.

Figger (or **Figure**). See Fagger.

Figging- (or **Fagging-lay**). Pocket-picking.

Fight. A party; e.g. Tea fight, Wedding-fight, etc.: cf. Scramble, Worry, Row. *To fight* or *play cocum*: see Cocum. *To fight* (or *buck*) *the tiger*: see Buck. *One that can fight his weight in wild‸cats*, a brilliant desperado.

Fighting - cove. A professional pugilist, specifically one who 'boxes' for a livelihood at fairs, race-meetings, etc.

Fighting Fifth (The). The Fifth Foot. [So distinguished in the Peninsula.] Other nicknames were the Shiners (in 1764, from its clean and smart appearance); The Old Bold Fifth (also Peninsular); and Lord Wellington's Body Guard (it was at headquarters in 1811).

Fighting Ninth (The). The Ninth Foot. Also Holy Boys (Peninsular), from its selling its Bibles for drink.

Fighting-tight. Drunk and quarrelsome: see Screwed.

Fig-leaf. An apron. In fencing, the padded shield worn over the lower abdomen and right thigh: Fr., *petite bannette*.

Figs (also **Figgins**). A grocer.

Figure. 1. Appearance, conduct; e.g. *to cut a good* or *bad figure*, *a mean figure*, *sorry figure*, etc. (1712). 2. Paps and posteriors; said only of women. *No figure*, wanting in both particulars. As verb, to single out, spot (q.v.). Figure, like Fetch, comes in for a good deal of hard work in America. It is colloquially equivalent to 'count upon'; as, You may figure on getting a reply by return mail; also, to strive for. *To figure on* [*a thing*], to think it over; *to figure out*, to estimate; *to figure up*, to add up; *to cut a figure*, see Cut; *to go the whole figure*, to be thorough; *to go the big figure*, to launch out; *to miss a figure*, to make a mistake.]

Figure-dancer. A manipulator of the face value of banknotes, cheques, and paper security generally (*Grose*).

Figure-head. The face: see Dial.

Figure-maker. A wencher.

Figure (or **Number**) **Six.** A lock of hair brought down from the forehead, greased, twisted spirally, and plastered on the face: see Aggerawator.

Filbert. *Cracked in the filbert*, crazy; a variant of Wrong in the nut (q.v.) or Upper storey.

Filch. 1. To steal: specifically to pilfer (1567). 2. To beat. As subs., a thief.

Filcher (or **Filch**). A thief.

Filchman (or **Filch**). A thief's hooked staff: 'He carries a short staff in his hand, which is called a filch, having in the nab or head of it a ferme (that is to say a hole) into which, upon any piece of service, when he goes a filching, he putteth a hooke of iron, with which hooke he angles at a window in the dead of night for shirts, smockes, or any other linen or woollen' (*Dekker*).

File. 1. A pickpocket: also file cloy (or bung nipper): Fr., *poisse à la détourne* (1754). As verb, to pick pockets. 2. A man: i.e. a cove (q.v.). Thus *silent file* (Fr. *lime sourde*), a dumb man; *close-file*, a miser, or a person not given to blabbing; *hard-file*, a grasper (q.v.); *old file*, an elder; and so forth.

Filing-lay. Pocket-picking (1754).

Filling at the Price. Satisfying.

Fill. *Fill one's pipe.* To attain to easy circumstances. *Fill the bill*, to excel in conspicuousness: as a star actor whose name is 'billed' to the exclusion of the rest of the company. Hence, by implication, out of the common run of things; e.g. *That fills the bill*, that takes the cake, for a lie, an effect, an appearance—anything. *Fill the bin*, to be beyond question, come up to the mark; e.g. Is the news reliable? Yes, it fills the bin.

Fillupey. Satisfying.

Filly. A girl; specifically a wanton: among thieves, a daughter (1668).

Filth. A prostitute (1602).

Fimble-famble. A lame excuse, prevaricating answer.

Fin. The arm; also the hand: Fr., *nageoire*: *To tip the fin*, to shake hands (*Grose*).

Find (Harrow). A mess of three or four upper boys which teas and breakfasts in the rooms of one or other of the set. *Find-fag*, a fag who provides for, or finds, upper boys.

Finder. 1. A thief; specifically a meat-market thief. 2. (Oxford University). A waiter; especially at Caius'.

Fine. Punishment, a term of imprisonment. *To fine*, to sentence. *To cut it fine*, see Cut fine. *To get one down fine and close*, to find out all about a man, deliver a stinging blow. *All very fine and large*, an interjection of (1) approval, (2) derision, and (3) incredulity. [The refrain of a music-hall song excessively popular about 1886-88.] *Fine as fivepence*: see Fivepence. *Fine day for the young ducks*, a very wet day. *Fine words butter no parsnips*, a sarcastic retort upon large promises.

Fine-drawing. Accomplishing an end without discovery.

Fineer (and **Fineering**). Running into debt; getting goods made in such a fashion as to be unfit for every other purchaser, and if the tradesman refuses to give them on credit, then threatens to leave them upon his hands (*Goldsmith*).

Fine-madam. An epithet of envy or derision for one above her station.

Finger. A 'nip,' usually applied to spirituous liquors. Thus, Three fingers of clear juice, Three 'goes' of whisky. *To put the finger in the eye*, to weep (*Grose*).

Finger-and-thumb. A road or highway, i.e. drum.

Finger-better. A man who bets on credit; also one who points out cards.

Finger-post. A clergyman.

Finger-smith. 1. A pickpocket. 2. A midwife: Fr., *Madame tire-monde* (or *tire-pouce*, *tire-mômes*).

Finish. To kill.

Finisher. Something that gives the last, the settling touch to anything: see Corker, Clincher, etc. (1788).

Finjy! (Winchester College). An exclamation excusing one from participation in an unpleasant or unacceptable task, which he who says the word last has to undertake.

Finnuf. See Finnup.

Finnup (also Finnip, Finnuf Finnif, Finnie, Finn, or Fin). A five pound note or Flimsy (q.v.) [A Yiddish pronunciation of German *fünf*, five.] Also *Finnup ready*, ready money: in America, Finnup, a five dollar bill. *Double finnup*, a ten pound note.

Fippenny. A clasp knife: see Chive.

Fire. Danger. *Like a house on fire*, easily and rapidly: cf. House, Winking, One o'clock, Cake, Brick, etc. *To fire a slug*, to drink a dram (*Grose*). *To fire a gun*, to introduce a story by head and shoulders, lead up to a subject (*Grose*). *To set the Thames on fire*, to do some next-to-impossible task, to be exceptionally clever; used negatively in sarcasm.

Fire and Light. A master-at-arms.

Fired. Arrested, turned out, and (among artists) rejected.

Fire-eater. In Old Cant a quick-worker; and in modern English, a duellist or bully: also Fire-eating.

Fire-escape. A clergyman.

Fire-prigger. A thief whose venue is a conflagration (*Grose*).

Fire-spaniel. A soldier who nurses the barrack-room fire: synonyms are: fire-dog, fire-worshipper, chimney - ornament, fender - guard, and cuddle-chimney.

Firewater. Ardent spirits.

Fireworks. A state of disturbance, mental excitement: e.g. *Fireworks on the brain*, a fluster.

Firk. To beat (1599).

Firkytoodle. To caress. English synonyms: to canoodle, to fiddle, to mess (or pull) about, to slewther (Irish), to spoon, to crooky, to fam.

Firmed. See Well-firmed.

First - chop. First rate. [From Hind., *chaap*, a stamp, an official mark on weights and measures; hence used to signify quality.] Also Second-chop (q.v.).

First-flight. *In the first flight* those first in at the finish; in fox-hunting those in at the death.

First - nighter. An *habitué* of theatrical first-performances.

First-night Wrecker. See Wrecker.

Fish. 1. A man; generally in contempt or disparagement, as Odd fish, Loose fish, Queer fish, Scaly fish, Shy fish. 2. Pieces cut out of garments to make them fit close. As verb, to attempt to obtain by artifice, seek indirectly, curry favour. *Pretty kettle of fish*, a perplexing state of affairs, quandary. *To have other fish to fry*, to have other business on hand. *To be neither fish nor flesh*, to be neither one thing nor another; said of waverers and nondescripts; sometimes extended to Neither fish, flesh, fowl, nor good red herring (1598).

Fish-broth. Water: see Adam's ale (1599).

Fisher. A lick-spittle; only used contemptuously.

Fishhooks. The fingers: see Forks.

Fishmarket. The lowest hole at bagatelle, Simon (q.v.).

Fishy. Effete, dubious, or seedy (of persons): unsound, or equivocal (of things). Also Fishiness, unsoundness.

Fist. 1. Handwriting: Fr., *la cape*. 2. A workman. Good fist, a good workman. 3. An index hand. As verb, (1) to apprehend (1598). 2. To take hold: e.g. Just you fist that scrubbing brush, and set to work. *To put up one's fist*, to acknowledge a fact: cf. Fill the bin and acknowledge the corn.

Fit. Suitable, in good form. *Fit as a fiddle*, in perfect condition. *To fit like a ball of wax*, to fit close to the skin. *To fit like a sentry box*, to fit badly. *To fit like a glove*, to fit perfectly. *To fit to a T*, to fit to a nicety. [In reference to the T square used in drawing.] *To fit up a show*, to arrange an exhibition.

Fitch's Grenadiers. The Eighty-Third Foot. [From the small stature of the men and the name of the first colonel.]

Fits. *To beat into fits*: see Beat and Creation.

Fitter. A burglar's locksmith.

Fit-up. A small company: also used adjectively: see Conscience.

Five-fingers. The five of trumps in the game of Don or Five Cards (1611).

Fiver. Anything that counts as five; specifically a five-pound note: cf. Finn.

Five over Five. Said of people who turn in their toes.

Fivepence. *As fine* (or *as grand*), *as fivepence* (or *as fippence*), as fine as possible: cf. As neat as ninepence (1672).

Fives. 1. The fingers. *Bunch of fives*, the fist: see Forks (1629). Also the feet. 2. A fight.

Fix. A dilemma; frequently in conjunction with Awful (q.v.) and Regular (q.v.), e.g. *An awful fix*, a terrible position. Variants are Cornered, Up a tree, Up a close, Under a cloud, In a scrape: Fr., *avoir des mots avec les sergots*, to run amuck of the police. As verb, (1) to arrest (1789). (2) A general verb of action. Everything is fixed except the meaning of the word itself. The farmer fixes his fences, the mechanic his work-bench, the seamstress her sewing-machine, the fine lady her hair, and the schoolboy his books. The minister has to fix his sermon, the doctor to fix his medicines, the lawyer to fix his brief. Dickens was requested to un-fix his straps; eatables are fixed for a meal; a girl unfixes herself to go to bed, and fixes herself up to go for a walk. At public meetings it is fixed who are to be the candidates for office; rules are fixed to govern an institution, and when the arrangements are made the people contentedly say, Now everything is fixed nicely. *To fix the ballot box*, to tamper with returns. *Anyhow* (or *nohow*) *you can* or *can't fix it*: see Anyhow. *To fix one's flint*, to settle one's hash: see Cook one's goose (1835). *To fix up*, to settle, arrange.

Fixings. A noun of all work: applied to any and everything.

Fiz (or **Fizz**). Champagne; sometimes lemonade and ginger-beer: see Boy.

Fiz-gig. A firework.

Fizzer. Anything first-rate: cf. Fizzing.

Fizzing. First-rate. English synonyms: A1, cheery, clean wheat, clipping, crack, creamy, crushing, first chop, first-class, first-rate, or (in America) first-rate and a half, hunky, jammy, jonnick, lummy, nap, out-and-out, pink, plummy, proper, real jam, right as ninepence, ripping, rooter, rum, screaming, scrumptious, ship-shape, slap-up, slick, splendacious, splendiferous, to rights, tip-top, true marmalade, tsing-tsing.

Fizzle. A ridiculous failure, flash in the pan: in many of the United States colleges, the term=a blundering recitation. To hit just one third of the meaning constitutes a perfect fizzle. As verb, to fail in reciting, recite badly. Also (said of an instructor) to cause one to fail at reciting. At some American colleges Flunk (q.v.) is the common word for an utter failure. To Fizzle, to stumble through at last.

Flabbergast. To astound, stagger, either physically or mentally (1772).

Flabberdegaz. Words interpolated to dissemble a lapse of memory, Gag (q.v.). Also, imperfect utterance or bad acting.

Flag. 1. A groat, fourpenny piece: also Flagg, and Flagge: see Rhino (1567). 2. An apron; hence a badge of office or trade: cf. Flag-flasher. 3. A jade (1539). *To fly the flag*, to post a notice that hands are wanted.

Flag of Defiance. A drunken roysterer: see Lushington. *To hang out the flag of defiance* (or *bloody flag*), to be continnuously drunk.

Flag-flasher. One sporting a badge or other ensign of office (cap, apron, uniform, etc.) when off duty.

Flag-about. A strumpet.

Flag-flying. See Flag.

Flag of Distress. 1. A card announcing lodgings, or board and lodgings. Hence, any overt sign of poverty. 2. A flying shirt-tail; in America, a letter in the post-office (q.v.).

Flagger. A street-walker.

Flags. Linen drying and flying in the wind.

Flag Unfurled. A man of the world.

Flag-wagging. Flag-signal drill.

Flam. 1. Nonsense (for synonyms, see Gammon), humbug, flattery, or a lie: as a regular flam (1598). 2. A single stroke on the drum (*Grose*). As adj., false. As verb, (1) to take in, flatter, lie, foist or fob off. Flamming, lying. (2) (American University). To affect, or prefer, female society.

Flambustious. Showy, gaudy, pleasant.

Flamdoodle. Nonsense, vain boasting. Probably a variant of Flapdoodle (q.v.).

Flame. 1. A sweetheart, mistress in keeping. *Old flame*, an old lover, cast-off mistress (1664). Also, 2. a venereal disease.

Flamer. A man, woman, thing, or incident above the common.

Flames. A red-haired person: cf. Carrots and Ginger.

Flaming. Conspicuous, ardent, stunning (q.v.): see A1 (1738).

Flanderkin. A very large fat man or horse; also natives of Flanders (*B. E.*).

Flanders-fortunes. Of small substance (*B. E.*).

Flanders-pieces. Pictures that look fair at a distance, but coarser near at hand (*B. E.*).

Flank. 1. To crack a whip; also, to hit a mark with the lash of one. 2. To deliver a blow or a retort, push, hustle, quoit (Shakespeare): Fr., *flanquer*. *A plate of thin flank*, a sixpenny cut off the joint. *To flank the whole bottle*, to dodge, i.e. to outflank, to achieve by strategy.

Flanker. A blow, retort, kick.

Flankey. The posteriors.

Flannel. See Hot flannel.

Flannels. *To get one's flannels*, to get a place in the school football or cricket teams, or in the boats: cf. to get one's colours, or, one's blue.

Flap. 1. Sheet-lead used for roofing: Fr., *doussin, noir*: cf. Bluey. 2. A blow (1539). As verb, (1) to rob, swindle. 2. To pay, fork out. *To flap a jay*, to swindle a greenhorn, sell a pup (q.v.). *To flap the dimmock*, to pay.

Flapdoodle. 1. Transparent nonsense, kid. Also Flamdoodle, Flamsauce, or Flap-sauce: see Gammon. *To talk flapdoodle*, to brag, talk nonsense.

Flapdoodler. A braggart agitator, one that makes the eagle squeal (q.v.),

Flap-dragon. To gulp down hastily, as in the game of flap-dragon (1604).

Flapman. A convict promoted for good behaviour to first or second class.

Flapper. 1. The hand; also Flapper-shaker: see Daddle. 2. A little girl. [Also a fledgling wild duck.] 3. A very young prostitute. 4. A dustman's or coalheaver's hat, a Fantail (q.v.). 5. (in pl.). Very long-pointed shoes worn by nigger minstrels. 6. A parasite; a remembrancer.

Flapper-shaking. Hand-shaking.

Flap-sauce. See Flapdoodle.

Flare. 1. Primarily a stylish craft; hence, by implication, anything out of the common. 2. A row, dispute, drunk, or spree. As verb, (1) specifically to whisk out; hence, to steal actively, lightly, or delicately. 2. To swagger, go with a bounce. *All of a flare*, bunglingly.

Flaring. Excessive: e.g. a flaring lie, flaring drunk: see Flaming.

Flare-up (or -out). An orgie, fight, outburst of temper. Also a spree. English synonyms: barney, batter, bean-feast, beano, breakdown, burst, booze (specifically a drinking-bout), caper, devil's delight, dust, fanteague, fight, flare, flats-yad (back slang), fly, gig, hay-bag, hell's delight, high jinks, hooping up, hop, jagg, jamboree, jump, junketting, lark, drive, randan, on the tiles, on the fly, painting the town (American), rampage, razzle-dazzle, reeraw, ructions, shake, shine, spree, sky-wannocking, tear, tear up, toot. As verb, to fly into a passion.

Flash. 1. The vulgar tongue; the lingo of thieves and their associates. *To patter flash*, to talk in thieves' lingo. The derivation of Flash, like that of French *argot*, is entirely speculative. It has, however, been generally referred to a district called Flash (the primary signification as a place name is not clear), between Buxton Leek and Macclesfield: there lived many chapmen who, says Dr. Aiken (*Description of Country round Manchester*), 'were known as flash-men . . . using a sort of slang or cant dialect.'] (1718). 2. Hence, at one period, especially during the Regency days, the idiom of the man about town, of Tom and Jerrydom. 3. A boast, brag, or great pretence made by a spendthrift, quack, or pretender to more art or knowledge than he really has. 4. A showy swindler (e.g. Sir Petronel Flash); a blustering vulgarian (1605). 5. A peruke or perriwig. 6. A portion, a drink, go (q.v.). As adj., (1) relating to thieves, their habits, customs, devices, lingo, etc. (2) Knowing, expert, showy, cf. Down, Fly, Wide-awake, etc. Hence (popularly), by a simple transition, vulgarly counterfeit, showily shoddy: possibly the best understood meanings of the word in latter-day English. *To put one flash to anything*, to put him on his guard; to inform. (3) Vulgar, blackguardly, showy, applied to one aping his betters. Hence (in Australia), vain-glorious or swaggering. (4) In a set style. Also used substantively. Hence, in combination, *Flash-case* (crib, drum, house, ken, or panny): see Flash-ken; *Flash-cove* (q.v.); *Flash-dispensary* (American), a boarding house, especially a swell brothel; *Flash-gentry*, the swell mob or higher class of thieves; *Flash-girl* (moll, -mollisher, -piece, or -woman), a showy prostitute; *Flash-jig* (costers), a favourite dance; *Flash-kiddy*, a dandy; *Flash-lingo* (or song), patter, or song interlarded with cant words and phrases; *Flash-man* (q.v.); *Flash-note*, a spurious bank-note; *Flash-rider* (American): see Broncho-buster; *Flash toggery*, smart clothes; *Flash vessel*, a gaudy looking, but undisciplined ship. As verb, (1) to show, to expose. Among combinations may be mentioned—*To flash one's ivories*, to show one's teeth, to grin (*Grose*); *To flash the hash*, to vomit (*Grose*); *To flash the dicky*, to show the shirt front; *To flash the dibs*, to show or spend one's money; *To flash a fawney*, to wear a ring; *To flash one's gab*, to talk, to swagger, to brag; *To flash the bubs*, to expose the paps; *To flash the muzzle* (q.v.); *To flash one's ticker*, to air one's watch; *To flash the drag*, to wear women's clothes for immoral purposes; *To flash the white grin*: see Grin; *To flash the flag*, to sport an apron; *To flash the wedge*, to fence the swag, etc. *To flash the muzzle*, to produce a pistol. *To flash it about* (or *to cut a flash* or *dash*), to make a display; to live conspicuously and extravagantly.

Flash-case (-crib, -house, -drum, -ken, -panny, etc.) 1. A house frequented by thieves, as a tavern, lodging-house, fence (q.v.) (1690). 2. A brothel, any haunt of loose women.

Flash-cove (also Flash Companion). A thief, sharper, fence (q.v.).

Flash-man. Primarily a man talking Flash; hence, a rogue, thief, the landlord of a Flash-case (q.v.). Also a Fancy-Joseph. In America, a person with no visible means of support, but living in style and showing up well.

Flash-of-lightning. 1. A glass of gin, dram of neat spirits: see Go and Drinks. Latterly, an American drink. 2. The gold braid on an officer's cap.

Flashy (Flashily, or Flashly). Empty, showy, tawdry, insipid (1637).

Flash-tail. A prostitute.

Flasher. A high-flyer, fop, pretender to wit (1779).

Flashery. Inferior, vulgar: hence by inversion, elegance, dash, distinction, display.

Flash-yad (back slang). A day's enjoyment.

Flashy Blade (or Spark). A Dandy (q.v.); now a cheap and noisy swell, whether male or female: cf. Flasher (1719).

Flat. 1. A greenhorn, noddy, gull: see Buffle (1762). 2. An honest man. 3. A lover's dismissal, jilting. As adj., downright, plain, straightforward: as in That's flat! a flat lie, flat burglary, etc. (1598). There are other usages, more or less colloquial e.g. Insipid, tame, dull: as in Macaulay's Flat as champagne in decanters. On the Stock Exchange, flat, without interest; stock is borrowed flat when no interest is allowed by the lender as security for the due return of the scrip. As verb, to jilt. *To feel flat* (1), to be low-spirited, out of sorts, Off colour (q.v.). (2) To fail, give way: also used substantively. *Flat as a flounder* (or *pancake*), very flat indeed: also, flat as be blowed. *To brush up a flat*: see Brusher. *To pick up a flat*, to find a client: Fr., *lever* or *faire un miché*.

Flat-back. A bed-bug: see Norfolk Howard.

Flat-broke. Utterly ruined, Dead-broke (q.v.).

Flat-catcher. An impostor.

Flat-catching. Swindling.

Flatch (back slang). 1. A half. *Flatch-kennurd*, half drunk; *Flatch-yenork*, half-a-crown; *Flatch-yennep*, a half-penny. 2. A half-penny: see Rhino. [An abbreviation of Flatch-yennep.] 3. A counterfeit half-crown: see Rhino.

Flat-cap. A citizen of London. In Henry the Eighth's time flat round caps were the pink of fashion; but when their date was out, they became ridiculous. The citizens continued to wear them long after they were generally disused, and were often satirized for their fidelity.] (1596).

Flat-cock. A female (*Grose*).

Flat-feet. Specifically the Foot Guards, but also applied to regiments of the line. Also (generally with some powerful adjective), applied to militiamen to differentiate them from linesmen.

Flat-fish (generally, a **Regular Flat-fish**). A dullard.

Flat-footed. Downright, resolute, honest. [Western: the simile is common to most languages.]

Flat-head. A greenhorn, a Sammy-soft (q.v.): see Buffle.

Flat-iron. A corner public house. [From the triangular shape.]

Flattie (or Flatty). A gull: see Buffle.

Flat-move. An attempt or project that miscarries; folly and mismanagement generally (*Grose*).

Flats. 1. Playing cards: see King's

Books. 2. False dice: see Fulhams. 3. Base money. *Mahogany flats*, bed-bugs: see Norfolk Howards.

Flats-and-sharps. Weapons.

Flatten. *To flatten out*, to get the better of (in argument or fight). *Flattened out*, ruined; beaten.

Flatter - trap. The mouth: Fr., *menteuse*: see Potato-trap.

Flatty-ken. A house where the landlord is not awake, or fly to the moves and dodges of the trade.

Flawed. Half-drunk, a little crooked, quick-tempered (*Grose*): see Screwed.

Flay (or **Flay the Fox**). 1. To vomit: from the subject to the effect, says Cotgrave; for the flaying of so stinking a beast is like enough to make them spue that feel it. Now, To shoot the cat. 2. To clean out by unfair means. *To flay* (or *skin*) *a flint*, to be mean or miserly: see Skinflint.

Flaybottom (or **Flaybottomist**). A schoolmaster, with a play on the word phlebotomist, a blood-letter (*Grose*). Fr., *fouette-cul*; and (*Cotgrave*) *Fesse-cul*, a pedantical whip-arse.

Flavour. *To catch* (or *get*) *the flavour*, to be intoxicated: see Screwed.

Flax. To beat severely; *to give it hot* (q.v.).

Flax-wench. A prostitute (1604).

Flea. *To send away with a flea in the ear*, to dismiss with vigour and acerbity. *To have a flea in the ear*, (1) to fail in an enterprise; and (2) to receive a scolding or annoying suggestion. *To sit on a bag of fleas*, to sit uncomfortably; *on a bag of hen fleas*, very uncomfortably indeed. *To catch fleas for*, to be on terms of extreme intimacy: e.g. I catch her fleas for her, She has nothing to refuse me: cf. Shakespeare ('Tempest,' II. ii.), 'Yet a tailor might scratch her where'er she did itch.' *In a flea's leap*, in next to no time, instanter (q.v.).

Flea-and-louse (rhyming slang), A house: see Ken.

Flea-bag. A bed: Fr., *pucier*.

Flea-bite. A trifle (1630).

Flea-biting. A trifle.

Flea- (or **Flay-**) **Flint.** A miser: cf. Skinflint (q.v.) (1719).

Flear. To grin. *A flearing fool*, a grinning idiot.

Fleece. An act of theft: cf. old proverb, To go out to shear and come home shorn. As verb, to cheat, shear or be shorn (as a sheep) (1593). Hence *fleeced*, ruined; dead-broke (q.v.).

Fleecer. A thief (1600).

Fleeter-face. A pale-face, coward: cf. Shakespeare's Cream-faced loon. (1647).

Fleet-note. A forged note.

Fleet-of-the-desert. A caravan: see Ship of the desert, camel.

Fleet-street. The estate of journalism, especially journalism of the baser sort. *Fleet-streeter*, a journalist of the baser sort; a spunging Prophet (q.v.); a sharking dramatic critic; a Spicy (q.v.) paragraphist; and so on. *Fleet-streetese*, the so-called English, written to sell by the Fleet-streeter (q.v.), or baser sort of journalist: a mixture of sesquipedalians and slang, of phrases worn threadbare and phrases sprung from the kennel; of bad grammar and worse manners; the like of which is impossible outside Fleet-street (q.v.), but which in Fleet-street commands a price, and enables not a few to live.

Fleg. To whip (*Bailey*).

Flemish - account. A remittance less than expected; hence, an unsatisfactory account. [Among the Flemings (the merchants of Western Europe when commerce was young) accounts were kept in livres, sols, and pence; but the livre or pound only= 12s., so that what the Antwerp merchant called one livre thirteen and fourpence would in English currency be only 20s.] (1668).

Flesh - and - blood. Brandy and port in equal proportions.

Flesh - bag. A shirt or chemise. English synonyms: biled rag (American), camesa, carrion-case, commission, dickey (formerly a worn-out shirt), gad (gipsy), lully, mill tog, mish, narp (Scots'), shaker, shimmy (=a chemise, *Marryat*), smish.

Flesh-broker. 1. A match-maker (1690). 2. A procuress (*Grose*).

Flesh-fly (or **Flesh-maggot**). A whoremaster.

Flesh-pot. *Sighing for the flesh-pots of Egypt*, hankering for good things no longer at command. [Biblical.]

Flesh-tailor. A surgeon: see Sawbones.

Fleshy (Winchester College): see Cat's Head.

Fletch. A spurious coin: cf. Flatch.

Flick (or **Flig**). 1. A cut with a whip-lash; hence, a blow of any sort. A flicking is often administered by schoolboys with a damp towel or pocket-handkerchief. 2. A jocular salutation; usually Old Flick. As verb, 1. To cut (1690). 2. To strike with, or as with, a whip.

Flicker. A drinking glass. As verb (1) to drink (*Matsell*). (2) To laugh wantonly; also to kiss, or lewdly fondle a woman. Also *Flicking*, (1) drinking, and (2) wanton laughter. *Let her flicker*, said of any doubtful issue: let the matter take its chance.

Flicket-a-Flacket. Onomatopœtic for a noise of flapping and flicking (1719).

Flier (or **Flyer**). 1. A horse or boat of great speed; also (American railway) a fast train; hence, by implication, anything of excellence. 2. A shot in the air. 3. A small hand-bill, Dodger (q.v.). *To take a flier*, to make a venture; to invest against odds.

Flies (rhyming). Lies. Hence, nonsense, trickery, deceit. *There are no flies on me* (or *him*), I am dealing honestly with you; He is genuine, and is not humbugging. In America, the expression is used of (1) a man of quick parts, a man who knows a thing without its being kicked into him by a mule; and (2) a person of superior breeding or descent.

Fligger (also **Flicker**). To grin (1720).

Flim. See Flimsy.

Flim-flam. An idle story, sham, Robin Hood tale (q.v.) (1589). As adj., idle, worthless (1589).

Flimp. To hustle or rob. *To put on the flimp*, to rob on the highway. *Flimping*, stealing from the person.

Flimsy (or **Flim**). 1. A bank-note. Soft-flimsy, a note drawn on the 'Bank of Elegance,' or 'The Bank of Engraving.' 2. News of all kinds, Points (q.v.). First used at Lloyd's.

Flinders. Pieces infinitesimally small.

Fling. 1. A fit of temper. 2. A jeer, jibe, personal allusion or attack (1592). As verb, (1) to cheat, get the best of, Do (q.v.) or diddle (*Grose*). (2) To dance. *To fling out*, to depart in a hurry, and, especially, in a temper. *In a fling*, in a spasm of temper. *To have one's fling*, to enjoy full liberty of action or conduct (1624). *To fling dirt*: see Dirt.

Flinger. A dancer.

Fling-dust. A street-walker.

Flint. A man working for a Union or fair house; non-Unionists are Dung (q.v.). Both terms occur in Foote's burlesque, *The Tailors: a Tragedy for Warm Weather*, and they received a fresh lease of popularity during the tailors' strike of 1832. *Old Flint*, a miser: one who would skin a flint, i.e. stoop to any meanness for a trifle. *To fix one's flint*: see Fix. *To flint in*, to act with energy; stand on no ceremony, pitch into, tackle. A verb of action well-nigh as common as Fix (q.v.).

Flip. 1. Hot beer, brandy, and sugar; also, says Grose, called Sir Cloudesley after Sir Cloudesley Shovel. 2. A bribe or douceur. 3. A light blow, or snatch. As verb, to shoot. *To flip up*, to spin a coin.

Flip-flap. 1. A flighty creature (1702). 2. A step-dance; a Cellar-flap (q.v.). Also (acrobats'); a kind of somersault, in which the performer throws himself over on his hands and feet alternately (1727). 3. A kind of tea-cake. 4. The arm: see Bender.

Flipper. 1. The hand. *Tip us your flipper*, give me your hand: see Daddle. 2. See Flapper. 3. Part of a scene, hinged and painted on both sides, used in trick changes.

Flirtatious. Flighty.

Flirt-gill (**Flirtgillian**, or **Gill-flirt**). A wanton, a chopping-girl (q.v.); specifically a strumpet (1595).

Flirtina Cop-all. A wanton, young or old; a men's woman (q.v.).

Float. The footlights: before the invention of gas they were oil-pans with floating wicks. *If that's the way the stick floats*: see Stick.

Floater. 1. An Exchequer bill; applied also to other unfunded stock. 2. A suet dumpling in soup. 3. A vendible voter. 4. A candidate representing several counties, and therefore not considered directly responsible to any one of them.

Floating-academy. The hulks; also Campbell's academy (q.v.), and Floating hell (q.v.).

Floating-batteries. 1. Broken bread in tea; also Slingers (q.v.). 2. The Confederate bread rations during the Secession.

Floating-coffin. A rotten ship.

Floating-hell (or **Hell afloat**). A ship commanded by (1) a brutal savage, or (2) a ruthless disciplinarian.

Flock. A clergyman's congregation. Also any body of people with a common haunt or interest: e.g. a family of children, a company of soldiers, a school of girls or boys, a cabful of molls, and such like. *To fire into the wrong flock*, to blunder: see To bark up the wrong tree.

Flock-of-Sheep. 1. A hand at dominoes set out on the table. 2. White-crested dancing waves on the sea, White horses (q.v.).

Flog. A whip: a contraction of Flogger (q.v.). *To flog* (now recognised), is cited by *B. E.* (1690), and *Grose*. *To be flogged at the tumbler*, to be whipped at the cart's tail: see Tumbler. *To flog the dead horse*, 1. To work up an interest in a bygone subject, try against heart, do with no will nor liking for the job. [Bright said that Earl Russell's Reform Bill was a dead horse (q.v.), and every attempt to create enthusiasm in its favour was flogging the dead horse.] 2. To work off an advance of wages. *To flog a willing horse*, to urge on one who is already putting forth his best energies.

Flogger. 1. A whip: Fr., *bouis*. 2. A mop (i.e. a bunch of slips of cloth on a handle) used in the painting room to whisk the charcoal dust from a sketch.

Flogging. Careful, penurious.

Flogging-cove. 1. An official who administers the Cat (q.v.). 2. See Flogging cully.

Flogging-cully. A man addicted to flagellation, a Whipster (q.v.).

Flogging-stake. A whipping post.

Flogster. One addicted to flogging. Specifically (naval) a nickname applied to the Duke of Clarence (afterwards William IV.).

Floor. 1. To knock down. Hence to vanquish in argument, make an end of, defeat, confound (*Grose*). *To floor the odds*, said of a low-priced horse that pulls off the event in face of the betting. 2. To finish, get outside of: e.g. I floored three half-pints and a nip before breakfast. 3. To pluck, Plough (q.v.). *To floor a paper* (*lesson, examination, examiner*), to answer every question, master, prove oneself superior to the occasion. *To floor one's licks*, to surpass oneself. Cut-around (q.v.). *To have* (*hold*, or *take*) *the floor*, to rise to address a public meeting; in Ireland, to stand up to dance; and, in America, to be in possession of the House.

Floored. 1. Vanquished, brought under, ruined. English synonyms: basketed, bitched, bitched-up, bowled out, broken up, buggered up, busted, caved in, choked-off, cornered, cooked, coopered up, dead-beat, done brown, done for, done on toast, doubled up, flattened out, fluffed, flummoxed, frummagemmed, gapped, gone through St. Peter's needle, done under, gravelled, gruelled, hoofed out, in the last of pea-time, or last run of shad, jacked-up, knocked out of time, knocked silly, looed, mucked-out, petered out, pocketed, potted, put in his little bed, queered in his pitch, rantanned, sat upon, sewn up, shut-up, smashed to smithereens, snashed, snuffed out, spread-eagled, struck of a heap, stumped, tied up, timbered, treed, trumped, up a tree. 2. Drunk; in Shakespearean 'put down'; as Sir Andrew Aguecheek, 'Never in your life, I think, unless you see canary put me down' ("Twelfth Night," I. iii.): see Screwed. 3. Hung low at an exhibition; in contradistinction to Skyed (q.v.), and On the line (q.v.).

Floorer. 1. An auctioneer (q.v.), or knock-down blow. Hence, sudden or unpleasant news, a decisive argument, an unanswerable retort, a decisive check: Sp., *peso* (1819). 2. A question or a paper too hard to master. 3. A ball that brings down all the pins. 4. A thief who trips his man, and robs in picking him up; a Ramper (q.v.).

Flooring. Knocking down: hence, to vanquish in all senses.

Floor-walker. A shop-walker.

Flop. 1. A Bite (q.v.), a successful dodge (1856). 2. A sudden fall or flop down. 3. A collapse or breakdown. 4. (For Flap or Flip). A light blow (1662). As verb, (1) to fall, or flap down suddenly: Fr., *prendre un billet de parterre* (1742). (2) To knock down. As adj., An onomatopœia expressive of the noise of a sudden and sounding fall. Often used expletively, as Slap (q.v.) is, and the American, Right (q.v.) (1726). *To flop over*, to turn heavily; hence (in America), to make a sudden change of sides, association, or allegiance. *Flop up*, a day's tramp, as opposed to a Sot-down, half a day's travel. *Flop up time*, Bedtime. *Flop*, too, is something of a vocable of all-work. Thus, *to flop round*, to loaf, to dangle; *to do a flop* (colloquial), to sit, or to fall, down: *to flop out*, to leave the water noisily and awkwardly; *a flop in the gills*, a smack in the mouth.

Florence. A wench that has been touzed and ruffled (*B. E.*).

Floster. A mixed drink: sherry, noyau, peach-leaves, lemon, sugar, ice, and soda-water.

Flouch. *To fall* (or *go*) *flouch* (or *floush*), to come to pieces, sag suddenly on the removal of a restraining influence, as a pair of stays.

Flounce. To move with violence, and (generally) in anger. Said of women, for whom such motion is, or rather was, inseparable from a great flourishing of flounces.

Flounder. 1. A drowned corpse: see Stiff. 2. To sell, and afterwards re-purchase a stock, or *vice-versâ*.

Flounder-and-Dab. A cab.

Flour. Money: generic: see Rhino.

Flourish. To be in luck: e.g. I flourish, I am well off; Do you flourish, or Are you flourishing? Have you got any money? *Flourishing*, a retort to the inquiry, How are you? The equivalent of Pretty well, thank you!

Flowery. Lodging, entertainment; Square the omee for the flowery, pay the landlord for the lodging. [*Lingua Franca.*]

Flowery Language. Blasphemous and obscene speech.

Flowing-hope. A forlorn hope.

Flub-dub-and-Guff. Rhetorical embellishment; High-falutin' (q.v.).

Flue. 1. The Recorder of London or any large town. 2. The filth, part fluff, part hair, part dust, which collects under ill-kept beds, and at the junctures of sofas and chairs: see Beggar's Velvet. 3. A contraction of influenza. As verb, to put in pawn. *In* (or *up*) *the flue*, pawned. *Up the flue* (or *spout*), dead; collapsed, mentally or physically. *To be up one's flue*, to be awkward for one. That's up your flue, that's a facer, or that's up against you.

Flue-Faker (or **Scraper**). A chimney-sweep: see Clergyman.

Fluff (or **Fluffings**). 1. Short change given by booking-clerks. The practice is known as Fluffing: see Menavelings: Fr., *des fruges* (= more or less unlawful profits of any sort). As verb, to give short change. 2. Lines half learned and imperfectly delivered. Hence, *To do a fluff*, to forget one's part: also as verb, to disconcert, to floor (q.v.). *Fluff it!* an interjection of disapproval: Be off! Take it away!

Fluffer. 1. A drunkard: see Lushington. 2. A player 'rocky on his lines'; i.e. given to forgetting his part. 3. A term of contempt.

Fluffiness. 1. Drunkenness: see Fluffy and Fluffer. 2. The trick, or habit, of forgetting words.

Fluffy. Unsteady, of uncertain memory.

Fluke. In billiards, an accidental winning hazard; in all games a result not played for; a Crow (q.v.). In yachting, an effect of chance; a result in which seamanship has had no part. Hence, a stroke of luck. As verb, (1) to effect by accident. (2) To shirk. *To cut flukes out*, to mutiny, turn sulky and disobedient. *To turn flukes*, to go to bed; i.e. to Bunk (q.v.), or turn in.

Fluky (or **Flukey**). Of the nature of a Fluke (q.v.); i.e. achieved more by good luck than good guidance. Hence *Flukiness*, abounding in Flukes.

Flummadiddle. 1. Nonsense, Flummery (q.v.). 2. A sea-dainty.

Flummergasted. Astonished, confounded. A variant of Flabbergasted (q.v.).

Flummery. 1. Nonsense, Gammon (q.v.), flattery (*Grose*). 2. A kind of bread pudding (*Nordhoff*). 3. Oatmeal and water boiled to a jelly (*Grose*).

Flummox (**Flummocks**, or **Flummux**). 1. To perplex, dodge, abash, silence, victimize, Best (q.v.), disappoint. Also Conflummox. *To flummox* (or *conflummox*) *by the lip,* to outslang (q.v.), talk down; *to flummox the coppers,* to dodge the police; *to flummox the old Dutch,* to cheat one's wife, etc. 2. To confuse, Queer (q.v.). 3. Used in the passive sense, to abandon a purpose, give in, die. As subs., a bad recitation, failure. *Flummoxed,* spoilt, ruined, drunk, Sent down (q.v.), Boshed (q.v.), defeated, disappointed, silenced, Floored (q.v.).

Flummocky. Out of place, in bad taste.

Flummut. A month in prison: see Dose.

Flump. To fall, put, or be set down with violence or a thumping noise: onomatopœic. Also to come down with a flump (1840).

Flunk. 1. An idler, Loafer (q.v.), Lawrence (q.v.). 2. A failure, especially (at college) in recitations; a backing out of undertakings: also Flunk-out. As verb, to retire through fear, fail (as in a lesson), cause to fail.

Flunkey. 1. A ship's steward. 2. An ignorant dabbler in stock, inexperienced jobber. 3. One that makes a complete failure in a recitation; one who Flunks (q.v.). 4. A man-servant, especially one in livery. Hence, by implication, a parasite or Toady (q.v.): Fr., *larbin* (1848). Whence, *Flunkeyism,* blind worship of rank, birth, or riches: Fr., *larbinerie.*

Flurry. *To flurry one's milk,* to be worried, angry, or upset: see To fret one's kidneys (q.v.); To tear one's shirt (or one's hair), (q.v.).

Flurryment. Agitation, bustle, confusion, nervous excitement.

Flush. A hand of one suit. As adj., (1) with plenty of money, the reverse of Hard-up (q.v.); Warm (q.v.). Also abounding in anything: e.g. *Flush of his patter,* full of his talk; *flush of the lotion,* liberal with the drink; *flush of his notions,* prodigal of ideas; *flush of her charms,* lavish of her person; and so forth (1603). (2) Intoxicated (i.e. full to the brim); also Flushed: see Screwed. (3) Level: e.g. Flush with the top, with the water, with the road, with the boat's edge, etc. As verb, (1) to whip. English synonyms: to bludgeon, to bumbaste, to breech (Cotgrave), to brush, to club, to curry, to dress with an oaken towel, to drub, to dry-beat, to dry-bob, to drum, to fib, to flap, to flick, to flop, to jerk, to give one ballast, to hide, to lamm, to larrup, to paste, to punch, to rub down, to swinge, to swish, to switch, to trounce, to thump, to tund (Winchester), to wallop. (2) To clean by filling full, and emptying, of water: e.g. to flush a sewer; to wash, swill, or sluice away. Also, to fill with water: e.g. to flush a lock. (3) To start or raise a bird from covert: e.g. to flush a snipe, or a covey of partridges. *To come flush on one,* to come suddenly and unexpectedly (Marvell); to overwhelm (as by a sudden rush of water). *Flushed on the horse,* privately whipped in gaol.

Flush-hit. A clean blow, a hit full on the mark and straight from the shoulder. As adj., full, straight, Right on (q.v.).

Fluster. To excite, confuse, abash, Flummox (q.v.), upset, or be upset, with drink (1602).

Flustered (or **Flustrated**). Excited by drink, circumstances, another person's impudence, etc.; also mildly drunk: cf. Flusticated and see Screwed (1686).

Flusticated (or **Flustrated**). Confused, in a state of heat or excitement: cf. Flustered (1712).

Flustration. Heat, excitement, bustle, confusion, Flurry (q.v.) (1771).

Flute. The recorder of a corporation (1598).

Flutter. 1. An attempt or Shy (q.v.) at anything, a venture in earnest, a spree, a state of expectancy (as in betting): hence gambling. 2. The act of spinning a coin. As verb, (1) to spin a coin (for drinks); also to gamble. (2) To go in for a bout of pleasure. *To flutter the ribbons,* to drive. *Flutter,* if not a word of all-work, is a word with plenty to do. Thus, *to have* (or *do*) *a flutter,* to have a look in (q.v.), to go on the spree; *to be on the flutter,* to be on the spree; *to flutter a judy,* to pursue a girl; *to flutter a brown,* to spin a coin; *to flutter* (or *fret*) *one's kidneys,* to agitate, to exasperate; *to flutter a skirt,* to walk the streets; and so forth.]

Flux. 1. To cheat, cozen, overreach. 2. To salivate (*Grose*).

Fly. 1. A familiar; hence, by implication, a parasite or Sucker (q.v.). [In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries it was held that familiar spirits, in the guise of flies, lice, fleas, etc., attended witches, who for a price professed to dispose of the Power for evil thus imparted.] 2. A printer's devil; specifically a boy who lifted the printed sheets from the press. [Now the vibrating frame used for the same purpose.] (1688). 3. A customer. 4. The act of spinning a coin: cf. Flutter. 5. A public waggon: afterwards (colloquial) a four-wheel hackney coach: Fr., *mouche* (fly)=a public boat on the Seine. 6. A policeman. As adj., (1) knowing, Artful (q.v.), up to every move, cute. Also fly to, a-fly, fly to the game, and fly to what's what: cf. Awake, and, see Knowing. (2) Dextrous. As verb, (1) To toss, raise; *to fly the mags*, to toss up halfpence. (2) To give way: as, china flies in the baking. *To fly around*, to bestir oneself, make haste. Also to fly around and tear one's shirt. *To fly the flag*, to walk the streets. See also Flag. *To fly high* (or *rather high*), (1) to get, or be drunk: see Screwed. (2) To keep the best company, maintain the best appearances, and affect the best aims: i.e. to be a High-flier (q.v.). Also, to venture for the biggest stakes in the biggest way. *To fly low*, to make as little of oneself as possible; to sing small (q.v.); and (among thieves) to keep out of the way when Wanted (q.v.). *To fly off the handle*, to lose temper, fail of a promise, jilt, die; also to slip off the Handle (q.v.); to disappoint in any way. [In pioneer life for an axe to part company with its handle is a serious trial to temper and patience.] *To fly out*, to get angry, scold (1612). *To make the fur* (or *feathers*) *fly*, to attack effectively, make a disturbance, quarrel noisily like two tom cats on the tiles, who are said (in American) to pull fur, or to pull wool. *To take on the fly*, to beg in the streets; a specific usage of adverbial sense. *To fly a kite*, to raise money by means of accommodation bills, raise the Wind (q.v.). (3) To go out by the window. (4) To evacuate from a window. (5) To attempt, set one's cap at. *To fly the blue pigeon*, to steal lead from roofs: see Blue-pigeon. Fr., *faire la mastar au gras-double* (or *la faire au mastar*) (*Grose*). *To let fly*, to hit out: from cock-fighting. *Not a feather to fly with*, penniless, ruined, Dead-broke (q.v.). *To break a fly on a wheel*, to make a mountain of a molehill: cf. To crack a nut with a Nasmyth hammer, to lavish force or energy. *The fly on the wheel*, one who fancies himself of mighty importance. [From the fable.] *I don't rise to that fly*, I don't believe you; you won't catch me with such bait as that. *Off the fly*, on the quiet, laid up in dock, doing nothing. *On the fly*, (1) walking the streets, out for a Lark (q.v.), Off work (q.v.), out on the spree (q.v.). (2) In motion: e.g. I got in one on the fly, I landed a blow while I was running.

Fly-blow. A bastard; cf. Bye-blow.

Fly-blown. 1. Intoxicated: see Screwed. 2. Cleaned-out, without a rap, Hard-up. 3. Used, done-up, Washed-out (q.v.). 4. Deflowered, known for a wanton, suspected of disease.

Fly-by-night. 1. A sedan chair on wheels; a usage of the Regency days. 2. A defaulting debtor, one who shoots the moon (q.v.). 3. A prostitute. 4. A noctambulist for business or for pleasure: i.e. a burglar or a common spreester (q.v.). 5. A term of opprobrium, spec. 'an old woman, signifying that she was a witch, and alluding to the nocturnal excursions attributed to witches who were supposed to fly abroad to their meetings mounted on brooms' (*Grose*).

Fly-catcher. An open-mouthed ignoramus, a Gape-seed (q.v.): Fr., *gobe-mouche*.

Flycop. A sharp officer; one well broken in to the tricks of trade.

Fly-disperser Soup. Oxtail.

Flyer. 1. See Flier in all senses. 2. A shoe: see Trotter-case. 3. (Winchester). A half-volley at football. A made-flyer is when the bound of the ball is gained from a previous kick, by the same side, against canvas or any other obstacle, or is dropped, as in a drop-kick. This is now confused with a kick-up.

Fly-flapped. Whipped in the stocks, or at the cart's tail (*Grose*).

Fly-flapper. A heavy bludgeon.

Fly-flat. A would-be connoisseur and authority.

Flying. *To look as if the Devil had spued on him* (or *her*) *flying*, said in derision of one odd-looking, filthy, or deformed.

Flying-angel. See Angel.

Flying Bricklayers. The mounted Royal Engineers.

Flying - camps. Couples or gangs of beggars.

Flying - caper. An escape from prison, Leg-bail (q.v.).

Flying-cat. See Cat.

Flying-country. A country where the Going (q.v.) is fast and good.

Flying - cove. An impostor who gets, or tries to get, money from persons who have been robbed by pretending to give such information as will lead to recovery. Formerly, Flying-porter (*Grose*).

Flying-dustman. See Stiff-'un.

Flying - Dutchman. The London and Exeter express (G.W.R.). See also Flying Scotsman and Wild Irishman.

Flying horse (or mare). The throw by which an opponent is sent over the head. Introduced, says Bee, by Parkins (1754).

Flying - jigger (or gygger). A turnpike gate.

Flying - man. A skirmisher good at taking, and running with, the ball.

Flying - mare. See Flying-horse.

Flying-pasty. Excrement wrapped in paper and thrown over a neighbour's wall (*Grose*).

Flying-porter. See Flying-cove.

Flying-stationer. A hawker of street ballads, Paperworker (q.v.), or Running patterer (q.v.). 'Printed for the Flying-stationer' is the *imprimatur* on hundreds of broadsheets from the last century onwards (*Grose*).

Flymy. Knowing, Fast (q.v.), roguish, sprightly.

Fly-my-kite (rhyming). A light.

Flymy-mess. *To be in a flymy-mess*, to be hungry and have nothing to eat.

Fly - slicer. A cavalry-man: see Mudcrusher. French lancers are *allumeurs de gaz*, their weapons being likened to a lamplighter's rod.

Fly-the-garter. Leap frog.

Fly-trap. The mouth: see Potato-trap.

Foaled. Thrown from a horse: Fr., *faire parache*.

Fob (or Fub). 1. A cheat, trick, swindle. *To come the fob*, to impose upon, swindle: cf. Come over (1690). 2. A breeches pocket, watch pocket (1678). 3. A watch-chain or ribbon, with buckle and seals, worn hanging from the fob. As verb, (1) to rob, cheat, pocket: also to fob off (1700). (2) To deceive, trifle with, disappoint, put off dishonestly or unfairly (1598). *To gut a fob*, to pick pockets.

Fobus. An opprobrious epithet (1677).

Fodder. Paper for the closet, Bum-fodder (q.v.).

Fœtus. *To tap the fœtus*, to procure abortion.

Fog. Smoke (*Grose*). *In a fog*, in a condition of perplexity, doubt, difficulty, or mystification: as, I'm quite in a fog as to what you mean. As verb, (1) to smoke. (2) To mystify, perplex, obscure.

Fogey (Fogy, Fogay, or Foggi). An invalid or garrison soldier or sailor. Whence the present colloquial usages: (1) a person advanced in life, and (2) an old-fashioned or eccentric person; generally Old fogey. So also *Fogeyish*, old-fashioned, eccentric. *Fogeydom*, the state of fogeyishness; and *fogeyism*, a characteristic of fogeydom.

Foggage. Fodder, especially green-meat (*Grose*).

Fogged. 1. Drunk: see Screwed. 2. Perplexed, bewildered, at a loss.

Fogger. 1. A huckster, a cringing, whining beggar, a pettifogger. 2. A farm-servant whose duty is to feed the cattle; i.e. to supply them with Foggage (q.v.).

Foggy. 1. Drunk, clinched, Hazy (q.v.): see Screwed. 2. Dull, fatwitted, Thick (q.v.).

Fogle. A silk handkerchief; also generic. [Cf. Ital., *foglia*, a pocket, a purse: Fr., *fouille*, a pocket]. A cotton handkerchief is called a clout. English synonyms: bandanna, belcher, billy, clout, conch-clout, fam-cloth, flag, kent-rag, madam, muckender, mucketer (Florio); nose-wipe, pen-wiper, rag, sneezer, snot-tinger or snot-rag, stook, wipe: see Billy.

Fogle - hunter. A thief whose speciality is Fogles (q.v.): Fr., *blaviniste* or *chiffonier*: see Stookhauler (1827).

Fogle-hunting (or drawing). Stealing pocket-handkerchiefs; i.e. prigging of wipes.

Fogram (or Fogrum). A fussy old man: see Fogey. As adj., fogeyish, stupid (1777). Hence *Fogramity*, (1) Fogeyism (q.v.), and (2) the state of Fogeyishness.

Fogue. Fierce, fiery.

Fogus. Tobacco (1671).

Foiler. A thief (1669).

Foist (Foyst, or Fyst). 1. A cheat, swindler, sharper (1592). 2. A trick, swindle, imposture: also Foyster and Foister (1605). As verb, to trick, swindle, pick pockets (1607).

Foister (or **Foyster**). A pickpocket, a cheat (1598).

Follower. A maid-servant's sweetheart, a beau: see Jomer.

Follow-me-lads. Curls or ribands hanging over the shoulder: Fr., *suivez-moi-jeune-homme*: also Followers.

Follow-on. A team eighty runs behind the other in the first innings is obliged to follow on; i.e. to take to the wickets a second time. A run more, and it saves the follow on.

Follow your nose! A retort on asking the way. The full phrase is, Follow your nose and you are sure to go straight (1620).

Foo-foo. A person of no account an insignificant idiot, a Poop (q.v.).

Fool. A dish of gooseberries, boiled with sugar and milk: also Gull (q.v.) (1720). *No fool*, a phrase laudatory. *To make a fool of*, to delude: specifically to cuckold, or to seduce under promise of marriage. *To fool about* (or *around*), to dawdle, trifle with, be infatuated with, hang about, defraud.

Fool-finder. A bum-bailiff (*Grose*).

Fool-monger. A person, male or female, living by their wits, e.g. a Promoter (q.v.), a betting-man, a swindler: also Fool-catcher and Fool-trap (q.v.).

Foolometer. A standard, positive or neuter, whereby to gauge the public taste.

Fool's Father. The pantaloon or Old 'un (q.v.).

Fool's-wedding. A party of women: see Hen party.

Fool-trap. A Fool-monger.

Foont. A sovereign: see Rhino. [Probably a corruption of Ger., *Pfund.*]

Foot. 1. To acknowledge payment; e.g. To foot a bill. 2. To kick, to Hoof (q.v.): cf. 'Merchant of Venice,' I. iii. 'You, that did void your rheum upon my beard, And foot me, as you spurn a stranger cur.' *To foot it*, to walk, to dance: see Pad the Hoof. *To foot-up*, to sum up the total (of a bill); to Tot up (q.v.). Hence, to pay, discharge one's obligations, Reckon up (q.v.); to summarize both merits and defects, and strike a balance. *Footing-up*, the reckoning, the sum total: Fr., *gomberger*. *To put one's best foot* (or *leg*) *foremost*, to use all possible despatch, exert oneself to the utmost (1596). *To put one's foot into anything*, to make a mess of it, get into a scrape. *The bishop* (i.e. the Devil) *has put his foot in it* (Old English proverb) is said of burned porridge or over-roasted meat (*Grose*): Fr., *faire une gaffe*. *To have one foot* (or *leg*) *in the grave*, on one's last legs, measured for a funeral sermon: also as adj. (1825). *To pull foot*, to make haste: also To take one's foot in one's hand, and To make tracks. *To take Mr. Foot's horse*, to walk, Go by Shank's mare (q.v.): see Pad the hoof. *To know the length of one's foot*, to be well acquainted with one's character (1581).

Footer (Harrow). 1. Short for football. 2. A player of football according to Rugby rules.

Foot-hot. In hot haste, Hot-foot (q.v.).

Footing. Money paid on entering upon new duties, or on being received into a workshop or society: as at sea when a comrade first goes aloft. Formerly Foot-ale: Fr., *arroser ses galons*, to christen one's uniform (1777).

Footle. To dawdle, trifle, potter, Mess about (q.v.).

Footlicker. A servant, a lickspittle (1609).

Footlights. *To smell the footlights*, to acquire a taste for theatricals. *To smell of the footlights*, to carry theatrical concerns and phraseology into private life, to Talk shop (q.v.).

Footman's Inn. A poor lodging, a jail: Fr., *Hôtel de la modestie*: the Poor Man's Arms (1608).

Footman's-maund. An artificial sore, as from a horse's bite or kick: the Fox's bite of schoolboys. Also Scaldrum dodge, or Maund (q.v.).

Foot-riding. Walking and wheeling one's machine instead of riding it.

Foot-scamp. A footpad (*Parker*).

Footstool. See Angel's footstool.

Foot-wobbler. An infantry-man: see Mudcrusher.

Footy. Contemptible, worthless: Fr., *foutu* (*Grose*).

Foozle. 1. A boggle, a miss. 2. A bore, a fogey; and (in America) a fool, a green 'un: see Buffle. As verb, to miss, boggle, Muff (q.v.). *Foozled* (or *Foozley*), blurred in appearance and effect, fuzzy, Muffed (q.v.). Often said of badly painted pictures, or parts of pictures.

Fop-doodle. An insignificant man, a fool (1689).

Fop's Alley. The gangway running parallel to the footlights, between the last row of the stalls and the first row of the pit in Her Majesty's Theatre, and in its palmiest days it was always graced by the presence of a subaltern of the Guards in full uniform, daintily swinging his bearskin.

Forakers (Winchester College). The water-closet: see Mrs. Jones. [Formerly spelt *foricus* and probably a corruption of *foricas*, an English plural of the Latin *forica.*]

Force (The). The police. *To force the voucher*, it is customary for sporting tricksters to advertise selections and enclose vouchers (similar to those sent out by respectable commission agents) for double or treble the current odds. The correspondent is informed that, in consequence of early investments, the extra odds can be laid; a remittance is requested; the voucher is forced; and then the firm dries up, and changes its name and address.

Forcemeat - ball. Something endured from compulsion: as (1) a rape: (2) going to prison; (3) transportation; (4) an affiliation order; (5) abstention (from drink, pleasure, etc.) through impecuniosity.

Forceps. The hands: see Daddle.

Fore-and-after. Anybody or anything good all round.

Fore - buttocks. The paps: see Dairy.

Fore-coach-wheel. A half-crown: see Caroon.

Forefoot. The hand (1598).

Foreman of the jury. A babbler; one with the Gift of the gab (q.v.) (1696).

Fore-stall. In garotting, a look-out in front of the operator, or Uglyman (q.v.); the watch behind is the Back-stall (q.v.): see Stale.

Fork. 1. A pickpocket: Fr., *Avoir les mains crochues*, to be a light-fingered or lime-fingered filcher; every finger of his hand as good as a lime-twig (*Cotgrave*). 2. A finger. *The forks*, the fore and middle fingers; cf. (proverbial) Fingers were made before forks. English synonyms: claws, fish-hooks (*Grose*), daddles, (also the hands), divers, feelers, fives, flappers, grapplers, grappling irons, gropers, hooks, nail-bearers, pickers and stealers (Shakespeare), corn-stealers, Ten Commandments, ticklers, pinkies, muck-forks. 3. The hands. 4. A gibbet; in the plural, the gallows. 5. A spendthrift. 6. The Crutch (q.v.), or Twist (q.v.): Fr., *Fourcheure*, that part of the bodie from whence the thighs depart (*Cotgrave*). As verb, to steal; specifically to pick a pocket by inserting the middle and forefinger: also To put one's forks down: Fr., *vol à la fourchette*. *To fork out* (or *over*—sometimes to *fork*), to hand over, pay, to shell out (q.v.). *To fork on*, to appropriate: cf. Freeze on to. *To pitch the fork*, to tell a pitiful tale. *To eat vinegar with a fork*, a person either over-shrewd or over-snappish is said to have eaten vinegar with a fork: Fr., *avoir mangé de l'oseille.*

Forker. A dockyard thief or Fence (q.v.).

Forking. 1. Thieving. 2. Hurrying and Scamping (q.v.).

Forkless. Clumsy, unworkmanlike, as without Forks (q.v.) (1821).

Foreloper. A teamster guide.

Forlorn-Hope. A last stake (*Grose*).

Form. 1. Condition, training, fitness for a contest. *In* (or *out of*) *form*, in or out of condition, i.e. fit or unfit for work. *Better* (or *top*) *form*, etc. (in comparison): cf. Colour. 2. Behaviour (with a moral significance: as *good form*, *bad form*, agreeable to good manners, breeding, principles, taste, etc., or the opposite). This usage, popularised in racing circles, is good literary English, though the word is commonly printed in inverted commas (' '): Shakespeare ('Two Gentlemen of Verona,' 4), says, 'Can no way change you to a milder form,' i.e. manner of behaviour. 3. Habit, Game (q.v.): e.g. That's my form, That's what I'm in the way of doing; or That's the sort of man I am.

Forney. A ring; a variant of Fawney (q.v.).

Fortune-biter. A sharper (1719).

Fortune - teller. A magistrate (1696).

Forty. *To talk forty* (more commonly *nineteen*) *to the dozen*, to chatter incessantly, gabble. *To walk off forty to the dozen*, to decamp in quick time. *Roaring forties*, the Atlantic between the fortieth and fiftieth degrees of latitude; also applied to the same region in southern latitudes.

Forty-faced. An arrant deceiver: e.g. a forty-faced liar, a forty-faced flirt, and so forth.

Forty-five. A revolver: see Meat in the pot.

Forty-foot (or **Forty-guts**). A fat, dumpy man, or woman: in contempt. English synonyms: All arse and no body, arse-and-corporation, all-belly (Cotgrave); all guts (idem), baconbelly, barrel-belly, belly-god, bladder-figured, bosse-belly, Bosse of Billingsgate (Florio, a fat woman), chuff (Shakespeare), Christmas beef, double-guts, double-tripe, fat-cock, fat-guts (Shakespeare and Cotgrave), fatico, fattymus or fattyma, fubsy, fat Jack of the bonehouse, fat-lips, flanderkin, fustiluggs (Burton), fussock, gorbelly, grampus, gotch-guts, grand-guts (Florio), gulche (Florio), gullyguts, gundigutts, guts, guts-and-stomach, guts-and-garbage, guts-to-sell, hoddy-doddy, dumpty-dumpty, hogshead, hopper-arse, Jack Weight, loppers, lummox, paunch, pod, porpoise, potguts, princod, pudding-belly, puffguts, ribs, slush-bucket, sow (a fat woman), spud, squab, studgy-guts, tallow-guts, tallow-merchant, thick-in-the-middle, tripes, tripes and trullibubs, tubs, waist, water-butt, walking-ninepin, whopper.

Forty-jawed. Excessively talkative.

Forty-lunged. Stentorian; given to shouting; Leather-lunged (q.v.).

Forty-rod (or **Forty-rod Lightning**). Whisky, specifically, spirit so fiery that it is calculated to kill at Forty Rods' distance, i.e. on sight: cf. Rotgut. Cf. Florio (1598), *Catoblepa*, 'a serpent in India so venomous that with his looke he kils a man a mile off.']

Forty - twa. A common jakes, or Bogshop (q.v.): in Edinburgh, So called from its accommodating that number of persons at once (*Hotten*). [Long a thing of the past.]

Forty - winks. A short sleep or nap: see Dog's sleep.

Fossed. Thrown.

Fossick. To work an abandoned claim, or to wash old dirt; hence to search persistently. [Halliwell, to take trouble, but cf. fosse, a ditch or excavation.] Also *Fossicking*, a living got as aforesaid; *Fossicker*, a man that works abandoned claims; *Fossicking about* (American), Shinning around, or in England, Ferreting (q.v.).

Fou (or **Fow**). Drunk; variants are Bitch-fou, greetin'-fou, piper-fou, roaring-fou, fou as barty (Burns), pissing-fou, and so forth: see Screwed. Also (Scots), full of food or drink.

Foul. A running into or down. As verb, to run against, run down; also to come (or fall) foul of. [Foul, adj. and verb, is used in two senses: (1), dirty, as a foul word, a foul shrew (Dickens), to foul the bed, etc.; and (2) unfair, as a foul (i.e. a felon) stroke, a foul blow, and so forth.] *To foul a plate with*, to dine or sup with (*Grose*).

Foulcher. A purse.

Foul-mouthed. Obscene or blasphemous in speech.

Found. *Found in a parsley-bed*: see Parsley-bed and Gooseberry-bush.

Four - and - nine (or **Four - and ninepenny**). A hat. [So-called from the price at which an enterprising Bread Street hatter sold his hats, *circa* 1844, at which date London was hideous with posters displaying a large black hat and '4s. and 9d.' in white letters.]

Four-bones. The knees.

Four - eyes. A person in spectacles: 'a chap that can't believe his own eyes.'

Four - holed Middlings (Winchester College). Ordinary walking shoes: cf. Beeswaxers: obsolete.

Four Kings. *The history* (or *book*) *of the four kings*, a pack of cards; otherwise, A child's best guide to the gallows, or The Devil's picture books: Fr., *livre des quatre rois.*

Four - legged burglar - alarm. A watch dog.

Four - poster. A four-post bedstead.

Four Seams and a Bit of Soap. A pair of trousers: see Kicks.

Four (or Three) Sheets in the Wind. Drunk; cf. Half seas over: see Screwed.

Fourteen Hundred (Stock Exchange). A warning cry that a stranger is in the House. The cry is said to have had its origin in the fact that for a long while the number of members never exceeded 1399; and it was customary to hail every new comer as the fourteen hundredth. It has, in its primary sense, long since lost significance, for there are now nearly three thousand members of the close corporation which has its home in Capel Court.

Fourteenth Amendment Persuasion. Negroes. [From the number of the clause amending the Constitution at the abolition of slavery.]

Fourth (Cambridge University). A Rear (q.v.) or jakes. [Origin uncertain; said to have been first used at St. John's or Trinity, where the closets were situated in the Fourth Court. Whatever its derivation, the term is now the only one in use at Cambridge, and is frequently heard outside the University.] The verbal phrase is To keep a fourth (see Keep). *On his fourth*, hopelessly drunk: see Screwed.

Fourth Estate. The body of journalists; the Press. [Literally the Fourth Estate of the realm, the other three being the Queen, Lords, and Commons.]

Four-wheeler. 1. A steak. 2. A four-wheeled cab; a Growler (q.v.).

Fousty. Stinking [probably derived from foist, sense 3].

Fouter (Foutering). To meddle, importune, waste time and tongue; the act of meddling, importunity, wasting time and tongue: e.g. Don't come foutering here! From the French: the sense of which is intensified in a vulgarism of still fuller flavour].

Fox. A sword; specifically, the old English broadsword (1598). As verb, 1. to intoxicate. *Foxed*, drunk; *to catch a fox*, to be very drunk; while *to play the fox* (Urquhart), to vomit, to shed your liquor, i.e. to get rid of the beast (1611). 2. To cheat, trick, rob (colloquial at Eton): see Gammon (1631). 3. To watch closely: also to fox about. 4. To sham. 5. To play truant. 6. To stain, discolour with damp; said of books and engravings. *Foxed*, stained or discoloured. 7. To criticise a brother pro's performance. 8. To mend a boot by capping it. *To set a fox to keep one's geese*, to entrust one's money, or one's circumstances, to the care of sharpers. *To make a fox paw*, to make a mistake or a wrong move; specifically (of women) to be seduced. Fr., *faux pas*. (*Grose*).

Fox's-sleep. A state of feigned yet very vigilant indifference to one's surroundings. [Foxes were supposed to sleep with one eye open.]

Foxy. 1. Red-haired: cf. Carroty. 2. Cunning, vulpine in character and look. Once literary. Jonson (1605) calls his arch-foist Volpone, the second title of his play being *The Fox*; and Florio (1598) defines *Volpone* as: an old fox, an old reinard, an old, crafty, sly, subtle, companion, sneaking, larking, wilie deceiver. 3. Repaired with new toecaps. 4. A term applied to prints and books discoloured by damp. 5. Inclined to reddishness (1792). 6. Strong-smelling: of a red-haired man or woman.

Foy. A cheat, swindle (1615).

Foyl-cloy. A pickpocket; a rogue (*B. E.*).

Foyst. See Foist.

Foyster. See Foister.

Fraggle. To rob.

Fragment (Winchester College). A dinner for six (served in College Hall, after the ordinary dinner), ordered by a Fellow in favour of a particular boy, who was at liberty to invite five others to join him. [Obs. A fragment was supposed to consist of three dishes.—*Winchester Ward-book* 1891].

Framer. A shawl (1859).

Frater. A beggar working with a false petition (1567).

Fraud. A failure, anything or body disappointing expectation; e.g. an acquaintance, a picture, a book, a play, a picture, a bottle of wine. Actual dishonesty is not necessarily implied.

Fraze. See Vessel.

Freak. A living curiosity: as the Siamese Twins, the Two-headed Nightingale. [Short for Freak of nature.]

Free. Impudent, self-possessed. As verb, to steal; cf. Annex and Convey. *Free of fumbler's hall*, impotent. *Free, gratis,—for nothing*, a pleonastic vulgarism. *Free of the house,* intimate; privileged to come and go at will. For the rest, the commonest sense of free is one of liberality: e.g. *Free of his foolishness,* full of chaff; *Free-handed,* lavish in giving; *free-hearted,* generously disposed; *free of his patter,* full of talk.

Free-and-easy. A social gathering where smoke, drink, and song is the order of the day: generally held at a public house.

Freebooker. A 'pirate' bookseller or publisher; a play on 'freebooter.'

Free fight. A general mellay.

Freeholder. 1. A prostitute's lover or fancyman. 2. A man whose wife insists on accompanying him to a public house (1696).

Free-lance. An habitual adulteress. Also said of a journalist attached to no particular paper.

Freeman. A married woman's lover. *Freeman of bucks,* a cuckold.

Freeman's Quay. *To drink* (or *lush*), *at freeman's quay,* to drink at another's expense. [Freeman's Quay was a celebrated wharf near London Bridge.]

Freeze. 1. The act or state of freezing, a frost. 2. Hard cider (*Grose*). As verb, (1) to long for intensely e.g. to freeze to go back, said of the home-sick; to freeze for meat. (2) Hence, to appropriate, steal, stick to. (3) To adulterate or Balderdash (q.v.) wine with Freeze (q.v. sense 2) (*Grose*). *To freeze to* (or *on to*), to take a strong fancy to, cling to, keep fast hold of; and (of persons) button-hole or shadow. *To freeze out,* to compel to withdraw from society by cold and contemptuous treatment; from business by competition or opposition; from the market by depressing prices or rates of exchange.

Freezer. 1. A tailless Eton jacket: cf. Bum-perisher. 2. A very cold day. By analogy, a chilling look, address, or retort.

French - elixir (cream, lace, or article). Brandy. [The custom of taking of brandy with tea and coffee was originally French. Whence French Cream. Laced tea, tea dashed with spirits]. English synonyms: ball-of-fire, bingo, cold tea, cold nantz, red ribbon.

French fake. The fashion of coiling a rope by taking it backwards and forwards in parallel bands, so that it may run easily.

French-gout (disease, or fever). Sometimes gonorrhœa, but more generally and correctly syphilis, the *Morbus Gallicus* of older writers (1598).

French Leave. *To take French leave,* (1) to decamp without notice; (2) to do anything without permission; (3) to purloin or steal; (4) to run away (as from an enemy). [Derivation obscure; French, probably traceable to the contempt engendered during the wars with France; the compliment is returned in similar expressions.] (1771).

French-pigeon. A pheasant killed by mistake in the partridge season, a Moko or Oriental (q.v.).

French - pig. A venereal bubo; a Blue boar (q.v.), or Winchester goose (q.v.).

French-prints. Generic for indecent pictures.

French-vice. A euphemism for all sexual malpractices.

Frenchy. A Frenchman.

Fresh. 1. Said of an undergraduate in his first term (1803). 2. Slightly intoxicated, elevated: see Screwed. (Scots, sober). 3. Inexperienced, but conceited and presumptuous; hence, forward, impudent (1596). 4. Fasting; opposed to eating or drinking. *Fresh as paint* (*as a rose, as a daisy,* etc.), full of health, strength, and activity; Fit (q.v.). *Fresh on the graft,* new to the work.

Fresh-bit. A beginner.

Freshen. *To freshen one's way,* to hurry, quicken one's movements. *To freshen up,* to clean, vamp, revive, smarten.

Fresher. An undergraduate in his first term. *The freshers,* that part of the Cam which lies between the Mill and Byron's Pool. So called because it is frequented by Freshmen (q.v.).

Freshman (or **Fresher**). A University man during his first year. In Dublin University he is a junior freshman during his first year, and a senior freshman the second year. At Oxford the title lasts for the first term: Ger., *Fuchs* (1596). As adj., of, or pertaining to, a freshman, or a first year student.

Freshmanship. Of the quality or state of being a freshman (1605).

Freshman's Bible. The University Calendar: cf. Post-office Bible.

Freshman's - church. The Pitt Press at Cambridge. [From its ecclesiastical architecture.]

Freshman's - landmark. King's College Chapel, Cambridge. [From the situation.]

Freshwater-mariner (or seaman). A beggar shamming sailor, a turnpike sailor (q.v.) (1567).

Freshwater-soldier. A raw recruit (1598).

Fret. *To fret one's gizzard* (*guts, giblets, kidneys, cream,* etc.), to get harassed and worried about trifles, Tear one's shirt (q.v.).

Friar. A pale spot in a printed sheet: Fr., *moine* (monk).

Frib. A stick: see Toko (1754).

Fribble. A trifler, a contemptible fop. [From the character in Garrick's *Miss in her Teens* (1747)].

Friday-face. A gloomy, dejected-looking man or woman: Fr., *figure de carême.* [Probably from Friday being, ecclesiastically, the banyan day of the week.] (1592). Whence, *Friday-faced,* mortified, melancholy, sour-featured (Scott).

Friendly - lead. An entertainment (as a sing-song) got up to assist a companion in Trouble (q.v.), or to raise money for the wife and children of a 'quodded pal.'

Friends-in-need. Lice: see Chates.

Frigate. A woman.

Frightfully. Very. An expletive used as are Awfully, Beastly, Bloody, etc. (q.v.).

Frig-pig. A finnicking trifler (*Grose*).

Frillery. Feminine underclothing: see Snowy.

Frills. Swagger, conceit; also accomplishments (as music, languages, etc.), and culture. *To put on one's frills,* to exaggerate, chant the poker, swagger, put on side (q.v.); sing it (q.v.): Fr., *se gonfler le jabot,* and *faire son lard.*

Frint. A pawnbroker: see Uncle.

Frisco. Short for San Francisco.

Frisk. 1. A frolic, outing, Lark (q.v.), mischief generally (1697). 2. A dance (1719). As verb (thieves'), (1) to search, run the rule over (q.v.). Especially applied to the search made, after arrest, for evidence of character, antecedents, or identity. Hence, careful examination of any kind (1781). 2. To pick pockets, rob. *To frisk a cly,* to empty a pocket. *To dance the Paddington frisk,* to dance on nothing; i.e. to be hanged: see Ladder. [Tyburn Tree was in Paddington.]

Frisker. A dancer.

Frivol (or **Frivvle**). To act frivolously, trifle. [A resuscitation of an old word used in another sense, viz. to annul, to set aside].

Frog. 1. A policeman: see Beak. 2. A Frenchman. Also Froggy and Frog-eater. [Formerly a Parisian; the shield of whose city bore three toads, while the quaggy state of the streets gave point to a jest common at Versailles before 1791: Qu'en disent les grenouilles? i.e. What do the frogs (the people of Paris) say?] 3. A foot: see Creepers. *To frog on,* to get on, prosper. *Frogging-on,* success.

Frog - and - Toad (rhyming). The main road.

Frog-and-Toe. The city of New York.

Froglander. A Dutchman: cf. Frog, sense 2. (1696.)

Frog-salad. A ballet; i.e. a Leg-piece (q.v.).

Frog's-march. *To give the frog's march,* to carry a man face downwards to the station; a device adopted with drunken or turbulent prisoners.

Frog's-wine. Gin: see Drinks.

Frolic. A merry-making.

Frosty-face. A pox-pitted man (*Grose*).

Front. To conceal the operations of a pickpocket; to cover (q.v.).

Frontispiece. The face: see Dial.

Front-windows. The eyes; also the face.

Frost. 1. A complete failure: cf. Fr., *four noir, temps noir.* 2. A dearth of work, *to have a frost,* to be idle.

Froudacious (Froudacity). The word 'Froudacity,' invented by Mr. Darnell Davis in his able review of *The Bow of Ulysses,* by Mr. T. A. Froude, reached the height of popularity in the Australasian Colonies, where it was in everyday use, the author being accused of ignorance, misleading, and careless treatment in his book on the Australasian colonies.

Froust (Harrow School). 1. Extra sleep allowed on Sunday mornings and whole holidays: Fr., *faire du lard.* 2. A stink, stuffiness (in a room).

Frousty. Stinking.

Frout (Winchester College). Angry, vexed.

Frow (**Froe**, or **Vroe**). A woman, wife, mistress. [From the Dutch.] (1607).

Frummagemed. Choked, strangled, spoilt (1671).

Frump. 1. A contemptuous speech or piece of conduct, sneer, a jest (1553). 2. A slattern; more commonly a prim old lady; the correlative of Fogey (q.v.): Fr., *graillon.* 3. A cheat, a trick. As verb, to mock, insult (1589).

Frumper. A sturdy man, good blade (1825).

Frumpish. Cross-grained, old-fashioned and severe in dress, manners, morals, and notions: also ill-natured, given to frumps. Also Frumpy (1589).

Frushee. An open jam tart.

Fry. To translate into plain English: cf. Boil down. *Go and fry your face,* a retort expressive of incredulity, derision, or contempt.

Frying-pan. *To leap* (or *jump*) *from the frying-pan into the fire,* to go from bad to worse: cf. from the smoke into the smother ('As You Like It,' I. ii.): Fr., *tomber de la poêle dans la braise* (1684). *To fry the pewter,* to melt down pewter measures.

F-sharp. A flea: cf. B-flat.

Fuant. Excrement.

Fub. To cheat, steal, put off with false excuses. Also *Fubbery,* cheating, stealing, deception.

Fubsey (or **Fubsy**). Plump, fat, well-filled. *Fubsy dummy,* a well-filled pocket-book; *fubsy wench,* a plump girl (*Grose*).

Fubsiness. Any sort of fatness.

Fuddle. 1. Drink. [Wedgwood: A corruption of Fuzz.] (1621). 2. A drunken bout; a Drunk. As verb, to be drunk: see Screwed.

Fuddlecap (or **Fuddler**). A drunkard, boon companion: see Lushington (1607).

Fuddled. Stupid with drink: see Screwed (1661).

Fudge. Nonsense, humbug, exaggeration, falsehood (1700). Also as an exclamation of contempt. As verb, (1) to fabricate, interpolate, contrive without proper materials. (2) To copy, to crib. (3) To botch, bungle, muff (q.v.). (4) To advance the hand unfairly at marbles.

Fug (Shrewsbury School). To stay in a stuffy room. As adj., stuffy.

Fuggy. A hot roll.

Fugo. The rectum (*Cotgrave*).

Fulhams (or **Fullams**). 1. Loaded dice; called 'high' or 'low' Fulhams as they were intended to turn up high or low. [Conjecturally, because manufactured at Fulham, or because that village was a notorious resort of blacklegs.] (1594). 2. A sham, a Make-believe (q.v.) (1664).

Fulham-virgin. A prostitute: cf. Bankside lady, Covent Garden nun, St. John's Wood vestal, etc.

Fulk. To use an unfair motion of the hand in plumping at taw (*Grose*).

Fulker. A pawnbroker: see Uncle (1566).

Full. 1. Drunk: see Screwed. 2. Used by bookmakers to signify that they have laid all the money they wish against a particular horse. *Full guts,* a swag-bellied man or woman. *A full hand,* five large beers. *Full in the belly,* with child. *Full in the pasterns* (or *the hocks*), thick-ankled. *Full team,* an eulogium. A man is a full team when of consequence in the community. Variants are whole team, or whole team and a horse to spare: cf. One-horse=mean, insignificant, or strikingly small. *Full in the waistcoat,* swag-bellied. *Full of 'em,* lousy, nitty, full of fleas. *Full to the bung,* very drunk: see Screwed. *To have* (or *wear*) *a full suit of mourning,* to have two black eyes. *Half-mourning,* one black eye: see Mouse. *To come full bob,* to come suddenly, full tilt. *Full against,* (1) dead, or decidedly opposed to, a person, thing, or place. *Full-flavoured,* peculiarly rank: as a story, an exhibition of profane swearing. *Full-gutted,* stout, swag-bellied. *Full of emptiness,* utterly void. *Full on,* set strongly in a given direction, especially in an obscene sense. *At full chisel,* at full speed; with the greatest violence or impetuosity. Also Full drive; Full split. *In full blast* (*swing*), etc., in the height of success; in hot pursuit. *In full dig,* on full pay. *In full feather*: see

Feather. *In full fig*: see Fig. *Full of it*, with child. *Full of guts*, full of vigour, excellently inspired and done: as a picture, a novel, and so forth: see Guts. *Full of beans*: see Beans. *Full of bread*: see Bread.

Fuller's Earth. Gin: see Satin.

Fullied. *To be fullied*, to be committed for trial: Fr., *être mis sur la planche au pain*. [From the newspaper expression, Fully committed.]

Fulness. *There's not fulness enough in the sleeve top*, a derisive answer to a threat.

Fumbler. An impotent man (1690).

Fumbles. Gloves.

Fun. 1. A cheat, a trick. As verb, (1) to cheat, trick: also (2) To put the fun on. 2. The posteriors, or Western End (*Marvell*). Probably an abbreviation of fundament. *To poke fun at*, to joke, ridicule, make a butt. *To have been making fun*, intoxicated: see Screwed.

Functior (or **Functure**) (Winchester College). An iron bracket candlestick, used for the nightlight in college chambers. [The word, says *Winchester Notions*, looks like *fulctura*, an earlier form of *fulture*, meaning a prop or stay, with phonetic change of *l* into *n*.]

Fundamental-features. The posteriors (1818).

Funds. Finances; e.g. My funds are very low.

Funeral. *It's not my* (or *your*) *funeral*, it is no business of mine, or yours: Fr., *nib dans mes blots* (that is not my affair). Also used affirmatively.

Fungus. An old man.

Funk. 1. Tobacco smoke; also a powerful stink. 2. A state of fear, trepidation, nervousness, or cowardice, a stew (q.v.). Generally, with an intensitive, e.g. a mortal, awful, bloody, or blue funk: Fr., *guenette*, *flubart*, *frousse*. 3. A coward. As verb, (1) to smoke out: see Funk the cobbler. (2) To terrify, shrink or quail through nervousness or cowardice. (3) To fear, hesitate, shirk; and (among pugilists) to come it (q.v.). English synonyms: to come it, to lose one's guts, to get the needle (athletic), (4) To be nervous, lose heart. (5) To move the hand forward unfairly in playing marbles; to fudge (q.v.). *To funk the cobbler*, to smoke out a schoolmate: a trick performed with asafœtida and cotton stuffed into a hollow tube or cow's horn; the cotton being lighted, the smoke is blown through the keyhole (1698). See also Peter Funk.

Funker. 1. A pipe, a cigar; a fire. 2. A low thief. 3. A coward.

Funking-room. The room at the Royal College of Surgeons where the students collect on the last evening of their final during the addition of their marks, and whence each is summoned by an official announcing failure or success.

Funkster (Winchester College). A coward; one that funks (q.v.).

Funky. Nervous, frightened, timid (1845).

Funnel. The throat: see Gutter Alley.

Funniment. A joke, either practical or verbal.

Funny. A clinker-built, narrow boat for sculls. *To feel funny*, to be overtaken with (1) emotion, or (2) drink: e.g. to wax amorous, or *get the flavour* (q.v.); to begin to be the worse for liquor.

Funny Bone. The elbow, with the passage of the ulnar nerve connecting the two bones: the extremity of the *humerus* (1837).

Funny-man. A circus clown. Also a joker in private life.

Fur. *To make the fur fly*: see Fly. *To have one's fur out*, to be angry.

Fur-and-feathers. Generic for game.

Furioso. A blusterer. Ital., *furioso* = raving (1692). English synonyms: barker, blower, bodadil, bouncer, bulldozer (American), cacafogo, Captain Bounce, Captain Bluff, Captain Grand, Captain Hackam, cutter, fire-eater, hector, huff-cap, humguffin, gasser, gasman, mouth, mouth-almighty, pissfire, pump-thunder, ramper, roarer, ruffler, shitefire, slangwhanger, spitfire, swashbuckler, swasher, teazer, Timothy Tearcat.

Furk (**Ferk, Firk**) (Winchester College). To expel, send (as on a message), drive away. Also To furk up, and furk down. [Old English *fercian*, High German *ferken*, Middle English, to lead or send away.]

Furmen. Aldermen. From their fur-trimmed robes.

Furmity-faced. White-faced: e.g. to simper like a furmity kitten (*Grose*).

Furnish. To fill out, improve in strength and appearance.

Furniture-picture. A picture sold not as a piece of art but as a piece of upholstery, such things being turned out by the score, as pianos are, or three-legged stools; the worst and cheapest kind of Pot-boiler (q.v.).

Furry-tail. A non-unionist; a Rat (q.v.). Specifically, a workman accepting employment at less than Society wages: cf. Dung, Flint, etc.

Further. *I'll see you further first*, a denial.

Fur-trade. Barristers.

Fussock (or **Fussocks**). Opprobrious term for a fat woman (1690).

Fust (or **Fust out**). To end in smoke, go to waste, end in nothing: cf. Fizzle.

Fustian. 1. Bombast, bad rhetoric, sound without sense, bombastic ranting: now accepted (1598). 2. Wine. White fustian, champagne; red fustian, port.

Fustilarian. A low fellow, a common scoundrel (1598).

Fustilug (Fustilugs). A piece of grossness—male or female, a coarse and dirty Blowzalinda, a foul slut, a fat stinkard (1696).

Future. *To deal in futures*, to speculate for a rise or fall.

Fuzz. 1. To shuffle cards minutely; also to change the pack (*Grose*). 2. To be, or make, drunk (1685).

Fuzziness. The condition of being in drink. Hence blurredness, incoherence, bewilderment.

Fuzzy. 1. Drunk: see Screwed. Hence blurred (as a picture), tangled, incoherent or inconsequent. 2. Rough, as in a fuzzy head, a fuzzy cloth, a fuzzy bit (a full-grown wench), a fuzzy carpet, etc.

Fuzzy-wuzzy. A Soudanese tribesman.

Fye-buck. A sixpence: see Rhino (1781).

Fylche. See Filch.

Fyst. See Foist.

Gab. 1. The mouth; also Gob: see Potato trap. 2. Talk, idle babble: also Gabb, Gabber, and Gabble (1712). As verb, to talk fluently or brilliantly, to lie (1383). *Gift of the gab* (or *gob*), the gift of conversation, the talent for speech: Fr., *n'avoir pas sa langue dans sa poche*. *To blow the gab*, to inform, peach (q.v.). Also to blow the gaff (q.v.). *To flash the gab*, to show off (q.v.) in talk; cf. Air one's vocabulary.

Gabble. 1. A gossip: also Gabbler, Gabble-grinder, Gabble-merchant, and Gabble-monger. 2. A voluble talker.

Gabble-mill. 1. The United States Congress: also Gabble-manufactory. 2. A pulpit: see Humbox. 3. The mouth: see Potato-trap.

Gable. The head: also Gable-end: see Crumpet.

Gabster. A voluble talker, whether eloquent or vain; one having the Gift of the gab (q.v.).

Gab-string. See Gob-string.

Gaby (also **Gabbey** and **Gabby**). A fool, babbler, boor: see Buffle.

Gad. An idle slattern: i.e. Gad-about (q.v.). As intj., an abbreviation of By Gad! *On the gad*, 1. on the spur of the moment. 2. On the move, on the gossip. 3. On the spree (especially of women); and, by implication, on the town. *To gad the hoof*, to walk or go without shoes, Pad the hoof (q.v.). Also, more loosely, to walk or roam about.

Gadabout. A trapesing gossip; as a housewife seldom seen at home, but very often at her neighbours' doors. Also as adjective; e.g. A Gad-about hussey.

Gaff. 1. A fair (1754). 2. A cheap, low music-hall or theatre; frequently Penny-gaff. 3. A hoax, an imposture. 4. (American cockpit) A steel spur. 5. (anglers') A landing spear, barbed in the iron. As verb, (1) to toss for liquor. (2) To play in a gaff (q.v. sense 2). *To blow the gaff* (or *gab*), to give information, let out a secret (1185).

Gaffer. 1. An old man; the masculine of Gammer (q.v.). Also a title of address: e.g. Good day, gaffer! Cf. Uncle and Daddy. Also, by implication, a husband. 2. A master, employer, Boss (q.v.); (athletic) a pedestrian trainer and 'farmer'; and (navvies') a gang-master or Ganger (q.v.) (1719). 3. A toss-penny, a gambler.

Gaffing. A mode of tossing for drinks, etc., in which three coins are placed in a hat, shaken up, and then thrown on the table. If the party to call, calls heads (or tails) and all three coins are as he calls them, he wins; if not, he pays a settled amount towards drinks (*Egan*).

Gag. 1. A joke, invention, hoax. Also as verb, to hoax, puff (1781). 2. Expressions interpolated by an actor in his part: especially such as can be repeated again and again in the course of performance. Certain plays, as 'The Critic,' are recognised 'gag-pieces,' and in these the practice is accounted legitimate. Cf. 'Hamlet,' III. ii. 'And let those that play your clowns, say no more than is set down for them.' Cf. Wheeze. A typical example is the 'I believe you, my boy!' of the late Paul Bedford. Occasionally gag = patter (q.v.). Also as verb. 3. A commonwealth of players in which the profits are shared: cf. Conscience. 4. A fool; i.e. a thing to laugh at: see Buffle. 5. (Christ's Hospital). Boiled fat beef. Gag-eater, a term of reproach (1813). 6. (Winchester College). An exercise (said to have been invented by Dr. Gabell) which consists in writing Latin criticisms on some celebrated piece, in a book sent in about once a month. In the Parts below Sixth Book and Senior Part, the gags consisted in historical analysis. [An abbreviation of gathering.] As verb, (1) see supra, and (2) to inform, Round on (q.v.); also *to blow the gag*. *On the high gag*, on the whisper, telling secrets. *On the low gag*, on the last rungs of beggary, ill-luck, or despair. *To strike the gag*, to cease from chaffing.

Gage (Gauge, or Gag). 1. A quart pot (i.e. a measure): also a drink or Go (q.v.). (1567). 2. (18th century). A chamber-pot. 3. A pipe (1696). 4. A man: see Cove.

Gagers. The eyes: see Glims

Gagga. A cheat, who by sham pretence and wonderful stories of suffering imposes on the credulity of people.

Gagger. A player dealing in Gags (q.v.), sense 2. Also Gaggist, Gag-master, and Gagster.

Gaggery. The practice of Gagging (q.v.), sense 3.

Gagging. 1. Bluff (q.v.); specifically, Bunco-steering (q.v.), the art of talking over and persuading a stranger that he is an old acquaintance. 2. Loitering about for fares, 'crawling.' 3. Dealing in Gags (q.v.), sense 1. Also as ppl. adj.

Gaggler's-coach. A hurdle.

Gail. A horse: see Prad.

Gaily-like. Showy, expensive, Bang-up (q.v.).

Gain-pain. A sword; specifically, in the Middle Ages, that of a hired soldier. Fr., *gagner* = to gain + *pain*, bread. Cf. Breadwinner and Potboiler (artists').]

Gait. Walk in life, profession, mode of making a living, Game (q.v.).

Gaiters. Half boots, shoes.

Gal. 1. A girl, servant-maid, sweetheart. *Best girl*, favourite flame. 2. A prostitute. 3. A female rough.

Galaney. See Galeny.

Galanty- (Gallanty- or Galantee-) show. A shadow pantomime: silhouettes shown on a transparency or thrown on a white sheet by a magic lantern: specifically, the former.

Gal-boy. A romp, Tom-boy (q.v.).

Galen. An apothecary: see Gallipot.

Galena. Salt pork. [Galen, Ill., a chief hog-raising and pork-packing centre.]

Galeny (or Galany). The domestic hen; now (West of England) a guinea fowl: see Cackling-cheat. [Latin, *gallina.*]

Galimaufrey. 1. A medley, jumble, chaos of differences. [Fr., *gallimaufrée*, a hash.] (1592). 2. A hodge-podge of scraps and leavings (1724). 3. A mistress (1596).

Gall. Effrontery, Cheek (q.v.), Brass (q.v.); e.g. Ain't he got a gall on him? (1789).

Gallant. A Dandy (q.v.), ladies' man, lover, cuckold-maker, whether *in posse* or *in esse* (*Shakespeare*). As adj., (1) valiant; (2) showy; (3) amorous. As verb, to sweetheart, squire, escort, pursue, or enjoy. *To gallant a fan*, to break with design, to afford an opportunity of presenting a better (*B. E.*) (1690).

Gallant Fiftieth. The Fiftieth Foot. [For its share in Vimiera, 1808.] Also, Blind half-hundred (q.v.); and Dirty half-hundred (q.v.).

Gallantry. (1) Sparkishness (q.v.), dandyism; and (2) the habit, or pursuit, of sexuality. *A life of gallantry*, a life devoted to the other sex.

Gallery (Winchester College) A commoner bedroom. [From a tradition of galleries in Commoners.] See Gallery-nymphs. *To play to the gallery*, to act so as to win the applause of the vulgar: i.e. to abandon distinction and art for coarseness of means and cheapness of effect. Said indifferently of any one in any profession who exerts himself to win the suffrages of the mob; as a political demagogue, a 'popular' preacher, a 'fashionable' painter, and so on. Hence, *Gallery-hit* (*shot, stroke*, etc.), a touch designed for, and exclusively addressed to, the non-critical. *To play the gallery*, to make an audience, applaud.

Gallery-nymph (Winchester College). A housemaid: see Gallery.

Galley. *Put a brass galley down your back* (printers'), an admonition to appear before a principal, implying that the galley will serve as a screen.

Galley-foist. The state barge, used by the Lord Mayor when sworn in at Westminster (1609).

Galley-growler (or stoker). A loafer, Malingerer (q.v.), Grumble-guts (q.v.).

Galley-halfpenny. A base coin, *temp.* Henry IV. Because commonly imported in Genoese galleys.]

Galley-slave. A compositor: see Donkey (1683).

Galleywest. An indefinite superlative: cf. About-east.

Galley-yarn (or news). A lying story, a swindle or Take-in (q.v.). Frequently abbreviated to 'G.Y.'

Gallied. Harried, vexed, overfatigued, perhaps like a galley-slave (*Grose*). In Australia, frightened.

Gallinipper. A large mosquito.

Gallipot. An apothecary. English synonyms: bolus, bum-tender, clyster-giver, clyster-pipe, croaker, crocus, drugs, Ollapod (from a creation of the Younger Coleman's), gagemonger, Galen (from the great physician), jakes-provider, pill-box, pill-merchant, pills, squirt, salts-and-senna, squire of the pot.

Gallivant. 1. To gad about with, or after, one of the other sex, play the gallant, do the agreeable. 2. To Trapes (q.v.), fuss, bustle about.

Gallivate. To frisk, figure about: cf. Gallivant.

Gallon. *What's a gallon of rum among one?* The retort sarcastic; applied, e.g. to those with 'eyes too big for their stomach,' to disproportionate ideas of the fitness of things, and so forth.

Gallon-distemper. 1. Delirium tremens; 2. the lighter after-effects of drinking. English synonyms: (1) For the former—barrel-fever, black-dog, blue-devils, blue Johnnies (Australian), B. J. (idem), blues, bottle-ache, D. T.; horrors, jim-jams, jumps, pink-spiders, quart-mania, rams, rats, shakes, snakes in the boots, trembles, triangles, uglies. (2) For the latter—a head, hot-coppers, a mouth, a touch of the brewer, a sore head (Scots).

Galloper. 1. A blood horse, a hunter. 2. An aide-de-camp.

Gallow-grass. Hemp [i.e. halters in the rough.] (1578).

Gallows. 1. A rascal, a wretch deserving the rope (1594). 2. generally in. pl., Gallowses, a pair of braces. As adv., excessively: cf. Bloody, Bleeding (q.v.), etc. As adj., great, uncommon, real (1551).

Gallows-bird (also **Newgate-bird**). 1. A son of the rope, habitual criminal, vagabond or scoundrel—old or young, crack-rope or wag-halter (*Cotgrave*; a gallows clapper (*Florio*): Fr., *gibier de Cayenne* (or *de potence*). 2. (common). A corpse on, or from, the gallows.

Gallows-faced. Evil-looking, hang-dog: also Gallows-looking (1766).

Gallows-minded. Criminal in habit and idea, evil-hearted.

Gallowsness. Rascality, recklessness, mischievousness.

Gallows-ripe. Ripe for the rope.

Gallus. See Gallows.

Gally-foist. See Galley-foist.

Gallyslopes. Breeches: see Kicks.

Galoot (also **Galloot** and **Geeloot**). A man (sometimes in contempt); also (in America) a worthless fellow (or thing), rowdy, Cad (q.v.). *On the gay galoot*, on the spree.

Galoptious (or **Galuptious**). Delightful: a general superlative.

Galore (also **Gallore** and **Golore**). In abundance, plenty.

Galumph. To bump along: onomatopœia.

Galvanised-Yankee. A Greyback (q.v.) who took the oath to the North and served in its armies.

Gam. 1. Pluck, gameness. 2. Stealing (*Matsell*, 1859). As verb, (1) to steal. (2) To engage in social intercourse, make a call, have a chat.

Gamaliel. A pedant, a person curious of the letter and the form: e.g. these Gamaliels of the theory = these ultra-puritans, to whom the spirit is nothing.

Gamb (or **Gam**). A leg: an heraldic term. [It., *gambe*; Fr., *jambe*; probably through Lingua Franca.]

Gamble. A venture, Flutter (q.v.).

Gambler. 'A guinea-dropper; one class of sharpers' (*Bailey*). 'A tricking gamester' (*Grose*). 'A cant word, I suppose. A knave whose practice it is to invite the unwary to game and cheat them' (*Johnson*).

Gambol. A railway ticket.

Gam-cases. Stockings.

Game. 1. The proceeds of a robbery, Swag (q.v.). 2. A company of harlots. *A game-pullet*, a young prostitute. 3. A gull, simpleton: see Buffle. 4. Specifically, *the game*, thieving; also (nautical), slave trading. *Hen of the game*, a shrew, a fighting woman (1639). 5. A source of amusement, Lark (q.v.), Barney (q.v.); as, e.g. It was such a game! 6. A design, trick, object, line of conduct: e.g. What's your little game, What are you after? Also, None of your little games! None of your tricks! As adj., (1) plucky, enduring, full of spirit and Bottom (q.v.). [Cock-pit and pugilists. The word may be said to have passed into the language with the rise to renown of Harry Pearce, surnamed the Game Chicken.] (1747). (2) Ready, willing, prepared. [Also from cock-fighting. See sense 1.] (3) Lame, crooked, disabled: as in Game leg. (4) Knowing, wide-awake, and (of women) Flash (q.v.): e.g. *Game-cove*, an associate of thieves; *Game-woman*, a prostitute; *Game-ship* (old), a ship whose commander and officers could be corrupted by bribes to allow the cargo to be stolen (*Clark Russell*). *Cock of the game*, a champion, an undoubted blood, a star of magnitude (cock-pit) (1719). *To make game of*, to turn into ridicule, delude, humbug (1671). *To die game*, to maintain a resolute attitude to the last, to show no contrition. *To get against the game*, to take a risk, chance it. [From the game of poker.] *To play the game*, to do a thing properly, do what is right and proper.

Gamecock. Hectoring, angry, valiant out of place.

Gameness. Pluck, endurance, the mixture of spirit and bottom.

Gamester. 1. A prostitute (1598). 2. A ruffler, gallant, wencher; a man fit and ready for anything; also a player (1639).

Gamey. 1. High-smelling, offensive to the nose, half-rotten. 2. Frisky, plucky.

Gaminess. The malodorousness proceeding from decay and—by implication—filthiness.

Gaming-house. A house of ill-repute—hell, tavern, or stews (1611).

Gammer. An old wife: a familiar address—the correlative of Gaffer (q.v.) (1551).

Gamming. A whaleman's term for visits paid by crews to each other at sea.

Gammon. 1. Nonsense, humbug, deceit: sometimes Gammon and spinach. *No gammon*, no error, no lies (1363). Also as verb, English synonyms: to bam, to bamblustercate, to bamboozle, to bambosh, to barney, to be on the job, to best, to bilk, to blarney, to blow, to bosh, to bounce, to cob, to cod, to cog, to chaff, to come over (or the artful, or Paddy, or the old soldier over) one, to cram, to do, to do brown, to doctor, to do Taffy, to fake the kidment, to flare up, to flam, to flummox, to get at (round, or to windward of) one, to gild the pill, to give a cock's egg, to gravel, to gull, to haze, to jimmify, to jaw, to jockey, to jolly, to kid, to make believe the moon is made of green cheese (*Cotgrave*), to mogue, to palm off on, to pickle, to plant, to plum, to poke bogey (or fun) at, to promoss, to put the kibosh on, to put in the chair, cart, or basket, to pull the leg, to queer, to quiz, to roast, to roorback, to run a bluff, or the shenanigan, to sell, to send for pigeon's milk, to sit upon, to send for oil of strappum, etc., to shave, to slum, or slumguzzle, to smoke, to snack, to soap, soft soap, sawder, or soft sawder, to spoof, to stick, to stall, to string, or get on a string, to stuff, to sawdust, or get on sawdust and treacle, to suck, to suck up, to sugar, to swap off, to take a rise out of, to rot, to tommy-rot, to take in, or down, to take to town, to take to the fair, to tip the traveller, to try it on, to throw dust in the eyes, to throw a tub to a whale, to pepper, to throw pepper in the eyes, to use the pepper box, to whiffle, to work the poppycock racket (Irish-American). [Note.—Many of the foregoing are used substantively.] 2. A confederate whose duty is to engage the attention of a victim during robbery, Bonnet (q.v.), Cover (q.v.). Also as verb, to humbug: deceive, to take in. As intj., nonsense, Skittles (q.v.). *Gammon and Patter*, (1) the language used by thieves; (2) (modern), a meeting, a Palaver (q.v.); (3) commonplace talk of any kind. *To give* (or *keep*) *in gammon*, to engage a person's attention while a confederate is robbing him (1719). *To gammon lushy* (or *queer*, etc.), to feign drunkenness, sickness, etc. *To gammon the twelve*, to deceive the jury.

Gammoner. 1. One who Gammons (q.v.), a nonsense-monger: Fr., *bonisseur de loffitudes*, *blagueur*, *mangeur de frimes*. 2. A confederate who covers the action of his chief, Bonnet Cover, Stall, all which see.

Gammy. 1. Cant. 2. A nickname for a lameter; a Hopping Jesus (q.v.). 3. A fool: see Buffle. As adj., (1) bad, impossible. Applied to householders of whom it is known that nothing can be got. *Gammy-vial*, a town in which the police will not allow unlicensed hawking. (Vial, Fr., *Ville*). (2) Forged, false, spurious: as a *gammy-moneker*, a forged signature; *gammy-lour*, counterfeit money, etc. (3) Old, ugly. (4) Same as Game, sense 3: e.g. a *gammy arm*, an arm in dock. *Gammy-eyed*, blind, sore-eyed; or afflicted with ecchymosis in the region of the eyes. *Gammey-leg*, a lame leg. Also (subs.) a term of derision for the halt and the maimed.

Gamp. 1. A monthly nurse, Fingersmith (q.v.). Mrs. Sarah Gamp, a character in *Martin Chuzzlewit* (1843).] Also a fussy and gossiping busybody. 2. An umbrella; specifically, one large and loosely tied, Lettuce (q.v.). [The original Sarah always carried one of this said pattern.] Sometimes a Sarah Gamp. *Mrs. Gamp, The Standard.* As adj., bulging: also Gampish.

Gamut. Tone, general scheme, Swim (q.v.). Thus *in the gamut*, a picture, a detail, or a shade of colour, in tone with its environment.

Gan (also **Gane**). The mouth: occasionally, throat, lip: see Potato trap (1572).

Gander. A married man; in America one not living with his wife, Grass-widower (q.v.). As verb, to ramble, waddle (as a goose). Also, to quest for women. *Gone gander*: see Gone coon. *To see how the gander hops*, to watch events, see how the cat jumps. *What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander*, a plea for consistency.

Gander-month. The month after confinement; when a certain license (or so it was held) is excusable in the male. Also *Gander-moon*, the husband at such a period being called a *Gander-mooner*: cf. Buck-hutch, and Goose-month (1617).

Gander-party. A gathering of men, Stag-party (q.v.); also Bull-dance, Gander-gang, etc.: cf. Hen-party, an assembly of women.

Gander-pulling. See Goose-riding.

Gander's-wool. Feathers.

Gang. A troop, a company (1639).

Ganger. An overseer or foreman of a gang of workmen, a superintendent.

Ganymede. A pot-boy (i.e. a cup-bearer): the masculine of Hebe (q.v.) (1659).

Gaol-bird. A person often in gaol, an incorrigible rogue: Fr., *chevronné*.

Gaoler's-coach. A hurdle to the place of execution (1785).

Gap. *To blow the gap*, to blow the Gaff (q.v.).

Gapes. A fit of yawning; also the open mouth of astonishment (1818).

Gapeseed. 1. A cause of astonishment, anything provoking the ignorant to stare with open mouth: also *to seek a gape's nest* (1598). 2. An open-mouthed loiterer.

Gapped. Worsted, Floored (q.v.).

Gar. See By gar!

Garble. *Garbling the coinage,* a practice amongst money-lenders of picking out the newest coins of full weight for export or re-melting, and passing the light ones into circulation.

Garden (The). 1. (greengrocers', fruiterers', etc.), Covent Garden Market; 2. (theatrical), Covent Garden Theatre; 3. (diamond merchants'), Hatton Garden. Cf. House, Lane, etc. The Garden (Covent Garden) was frequently used for the whole neighbourhood, which was notorious as a place of strumpets and stews. Thus, *Garden-house,* a brothel; *Garden-goddess,* a woman of pleasure; *Garden-gout,* venereal disease; *Garden-whore,* a low prostitute, etc.] *To put one in the garden,* to defraud a confederate, keep back part of the Regulars (q.v.), or Swag (q.v.).

Gardener. An awkward coachman: cf. Tea-kettle Coachman.

Garden-gate (rhyming). A magistrate: see Beak.

Garden Latin. Barbarous or sham Latin; also Apothecaries', Bog, Dog, and Kitchen Latin.

Garden-rake. A tooth-comb: also Scratching-rake, or Rake.

Gardy-loo. A warning cry; take care! [Fr., *gardez* (*vous de*) *l'eau!* Used before emptying slops out of window into the street. Hence the act of emptying slops itself.]

Gargle. A drink: generic: cf. Lotion, and see Go. As verb, to drink, liquor up: see Lush.

Gargle-factory. A public house: see Lush-crib.

Garn. A corruption of Go on! Get away with you!

Garnish. 1. A fee, Footing (q.v.); specifically when exacted by gaolers and old prisoners from a newcomer. The practice was forbidden by 4 Geo. IV., c. 43, sec. 12. Also Garnish-money (1592). 2. Fetters, handcuffs: see Darbies. As verb, to fetter, handcuff.

Garret. 1. The head, Cockloft (q.v.), Upper storey (q.v.): see Crumpet (1625). 2. The fob-pocket. *To have one's garret unfurnished,* to be crazy, stupid, lumpish: Balmy (q.v.).

Garreteer. 1. A thief robbing houses by entering skylights or garret-windows: also Dancer and Dancing-master. 2. An impecunious author, literary hack.

Garret-master. A cabinet-maker working on his own account, and selling his manufacture to the dealers direct.

Garrison-hack. 1. A woman given to indiscriminate flirtation with officers at a garrison. 2. A prostitute, a soldier's trull.

Garrotte. A form of strangulation (see verb). [From the Spanish *la garrota,* a method of capital punishment, which consists in strangulation by means of an iron collar.] As verb, (1) a method of robbery with violence, much practised some years ago. The victims were generally old or feeble men and women. Three hands were engaged: the Front-stall who looked out in that quarter, the Back-stall at the rear, and the Ugly or Nasty-man who did the work by passing his arm round his subject's neck from behind, and so throttling him to insensibility. (2) To cheat by concealing certain cards at the back of the neck.

Garrotter. A practitioner of garrotting (under verb, sense 1).

Garrotting. 1. See Garrotte (verb, sense 1). 2. Hiding a part of one's hand at the back of the neck for purposes of cheating.

Garter. In pl. the irons, or bilboes: see Darbies. *To fly* (or *prick*) *the garter*: see Prick.

Garvies. 1. Sprats: sometimes Garvie-herring. 2. *The Garvies,* the Ninety-fourth Foot. [From the small stature of earlier recruits.]

Gas. Empty talk, bounce, bombast. As verb, (1) to talk idly, brag, bounce, talk for talking's sake: Fr., *faire son cheval de corbillard* (in American, To be on the tall grass): see Long Bow. (2) To impose on, to Pill (q.v.), to Splash (q.v.): see Gammon. *To take the gas out of one,* to take the conceit out of, take down a peg. *To turn on the gas,* to bounce, Gas (q.v.). *To turn off the gas,* to cease, or cause to cease, from bouncing, vapouring, or Gas (q.v.). *To gas round,* to seek information on the sly, Gas (q.v.).

Gas-bag. A man of words or Gas (q.v.), gasconader: also Gasometer.

Gash. The mouth: see Potato-trap.

Gashly. A vulgarism for Ghastly.

Gaskins. Wide hose, wide

breeches. From Galligaskins, An old ludicrous word (*Johnson*).

Gasp. A dram of spirits: see Go. As verb, to drink a dram, e.g. Will you gasp? Will you take something neat.

Gaspipe. 1. An iron steamer, whose length is nine or ten times her beam. [At one time a ship's length but rarely exceeded four and a half to five times the beam.] 2. A bad roller. 3. A rifle, specifically the old Snider.

Gaspipe-crawler. A thin man: see Lamp-post.

Gasser. A braggart.

Gassy (or Gaseous). 1. Likely to take umbrage or to flare up. 2. Full of empty talk or Gas (q.v.).

Gaster. A fine and curious eater (Thackeray). In Rabelais, the belly and the needs thereof: a coinage adopted by Urquhart.

Gat. A quantity; e.g. a gat of grub, plenty to eat: also Gats.

Gate. 1. The attendance at a race or athletic meeting, held in enclosed grounds; the number of persons who pass the gate. 2. Money paid for admission to athletic sports, race course, etc., the same as Gate-money (q.v.). 3. in pl. (University). The being forbidden to pass outside the gate of a college: as verb, to confine wholly or during certain hours within the college gate for some infraction of discipline. *To break gates*, to stay out of college after hours. *The gate*, among fishmongers, Billingsgate; among thieves, Newgate: cf. Lane, Row, Garden, etc. *To be at gates* (Winchester College). To assemble in Seventh Chamber passage, preparatory to going Hills or Cathedral. *On the gate*, on remand.

Gate-bill. The record of an undergraduate's failure to be within the precincts of his college at, or before, a specified time at night.

Gate-money. The charge for admission to a race-meeting: see Gate.

Gater (Winchester College). A plunge head foremost into a Pot (q.v.).

Gate-race (or meeting). Formerly, a contest not got up for sport but entrance money; now a race or athletic meeting to which admission is by payment.

Gath. A city or district in Philistia (q.v.); often used, like Askelon (q.v.) for Philistia itself. Hence, *to be mighty in Gath*, to be a Philistine (q.v.) of the first magnitude; *to prevail against Gath*, to smite the Philistines hip and thigh, as becomes a valiant companion of the *Davidsbund*; and so forth. *Tell it not in Gath*, an interjection of derision, signifying that the person exclaimed against has done something the knowledge of which would bring on him the wrath, or the amazement, of his friends.

Gather. *To gather up*, to lead away. *To gather the taxes*, to go from workshop to workshop seeking employment. Hence, *Tax gatherer*, a man out of work and looking for a job: cf. Inspector of public buildings. *Out of gathers*, in distress: cf. Out at elbows.

Gatherings. See Gags.

Gatter. Beer; also liquor generally. *Shant of gatter*, a pot of beer: Fr., *moussante*: see Drinks.

Gaudeamus. A feast, drinking bout, any sort of merry-making. [German students', but now general and popular.] From the first word of the mediæval (students') ditty.

Gaudy (or Gaudy-day). A feast or entertainment: specifically the annual dinner of the fellows of a college in memory of founders or benefactors; or a festival of the Inns of Court (Lat., *gaudere*, to rejoice). (1724). As adj., good, frolicsome, festive: cf. Shakespeare's 'Let's have one other gaudy night ('Ant. and Cleo.,' III. xiii.). *Neat but not gaudy, as the devil said*, of ancient ladies dressed in flaming colours.

Gauge. See Gage. *To get the gauge of*, to divine an intention, to read a character, to Size (or Reckon) up (q.v.). Hence, That's about the gauge of it, That's a fair description.

Gauley. See By golly.

Gawf. A red-skinned apple.

Gawk. A simpleton, especially an awkward fool, male or female: see Buffle. [Scots Gowk, a cuckoo, fool; whence, to gowk, to play the fool. As in the 'Derision of Wanton Women' (*Bannatyne, MS.*, 1567), 'To gar them ga in gucking,' to make them play the fool.] As verb, to loiter round; to Play the goat. [The same verb is used by Jonson (*Magnetic Lady*, iii. 4, 1632) in the sense of amazed, or bamboozled, i.e. absolutely befooled:

'Nay, look how the man stands, as he were gowked!']

Gawkiness. Awkwardness, silliness, Greenness (q.v.).

Gawking. Loitering and staring, Gathering hayseed (q.v.).

Gawky. An awkward booby, a fool: e.g. Now squire gawky, a challenge to a clumsy lout: see Buffle (1686). As adj., lanky, awkward, stupid (1759).

Gawney (or Goney). A fool: see Buffle.

Gay. 1. Dissipated, specifically, given to venery: as in the French, *avoir la cuisse gaie.* Hence *Gay woman* (*girl*, or *bit*), a strumpet; *Gay house*, a brothel; *To be gay*, to be incontinent, etc., etc. (1383). 2. In drink: see Screwed. *All gay* (or *all so gay*), all right, first-rate, All serene (q.v.). *To feel gay*, inclined for sport.

Gay-tyke Boy. A dog fancier.

Gazebo. A summer-house commanding an extensive view. [Dog-Latin, Gazebo, I will gaze.]

Geach. A thief.

Gear. Work, Business (q.v.). Thus: Here's goodly gear, Here's fine doings; Here's a pretty kettle of fish ('Romeo and Juliet,' II. ii. 106).

Gee. See Gee-gee. As verb, (1) to go or turn to the off-side; used as a direction to horses. (2) To move faster: as a teemster to his horses, Gee-up! (3) To stop: as Gee whoa! *To gee with*, to agree with, fit, be congenial, go on all fours with, do (1696).

Gee-gee (or Gee). 1. A horse: see Prad. 2. The nickname among journalists (of the interviewer type) of Mr. G(eorge) G(rossmith), better known, perhaps, as the Society Clown.

Gee-gee Dodge. Selling horseflesh for beef.

Geekie. A police-station.

Geeloot. See Galoot.

Geese. *All his geese are swans*, he habitually exaggerates, or Embroiders (q.v.); or, He is always wrong in his estimates of persons and things. *The old woman's picking her geese*, said of a snowstorm: the other leg of the couplet (schoolboys') runs: 'And selling the feathers a penny a piece.' *Like geese on a common*, wandering in a body, aggressive and at large: e.g. as Faddists (q.v.) in pursuit of a Fad; or members of Parliament in recess, when both sides go about to say the thing which is in them.

Geewhilikens! An exclamation of surprise: also Jeewhilikens.

Geezer. An appellation, sometimes, but not necessarily, of derision and contempt; applied to both sexes, but generally to women: usually, Old geezer.

Gelding. A eunuch. *To enter for the geldings' stakes*, to castrate a man; also used to describe a eunuch.

Gelt. Money, Gilt (q.v.), Gelter: generic: see Rhino.

Gemini! (Geminy! or Jiminy!) An exclamation of surprise, a mild oath: also O Jimminy! O Jimminy Figs! O Jimminy Gig! etc.: for the phrase has pleased the cockney mind, and been vulgarised accordingly (1672).

Gemman. A contraction of gentleman (1550).

Gen. A shilling: see Rhino. Back slang, but cf. Fr., *argent.*]

Generalize. A shilling: see Rhino and Gen.

Geneva Print. Gin: see Drinks and Satin (1584).

Gen-net (back slang). Ten shillings.

Gennitraf (back slang). A farthing.

Genol (back slang). Long.

Gent. 1. A showily-dressed vulgarian. [A contraction of gentleman.] (1635). 2. Money: see Rhino [Fr., *argent.*] 3. A sweetheart, mistress: e.g. My gent, my particular friend. As adj., elegant, comely, genteel (1383).

Gentile. Any sort of stranger, native or foreign; among the Mormons, any person not professing the Gospel according to Joe Smith. Hence, *In the land of the Gentiles*, (1) in foreign parts; and (2) in strange neighbourhoods or alien society.

Gentle. A maggot; vulgarly, Gentile.

Gentle-craft. 1. Shoemaking. [From the romance of Prince Crispin.] 2. Angling.

Gentleman. A crow bar: see Jemmy. *To put a churl* (or *beggar*) *upon a gentleman*, to drink malt liquor immediately after wine (*Grose*). *Gentleman of the* (*three*, *four*, or *five*) *outs* (or *ins*), a varying and ancient wheeze, of which the following are representative:—Out of money, and out of clothes; Out at the heels, and out at the toes; Out of credit, and in debt. A man in debt, in danger, and in poverty; or in gaol indicted, and in danger of being hanged. Out of pocket, out of elbows, and out of credit. Without wit, without money, without manners. *Gentleman of fortune*, an adventurer. *Gentleman of observation*, a tout. *Gentleman of the round*, an invalided or disabled soldier, making his living by begging (1596). *Gentleman of the short staff*, a constable. *Gentleman of the fist*, a prize-fighter. *Gentleman in brown*, a bed bug: see Norfolk Howard. *The little gentleman in brown velvet*, a mole. [The Tory toast after the death of William III., whose horse was said to have stumbled over a mole hill.] *Gentleman of the green baize road*, a card sharper.

Gentleman Commoner. 1. A privileged class of commoners at Oxford, wearing a special cut of gown and a velvet cap. 2. An empty bottle; also Fellow-commoner (q.v.).

Gentleman - ranker. A broken gentleman serving in the ranks.

Gentleman's-companion. A louse: see Chates.

Gentleman's - master. A highwayman (*Grose*).

Gentleman's (or Ladies'-) piece. A small or delicate portion, a Tit-bit.

Gentlemen's - sons. The three regiments of Guards.

Gently! An interjection, Stand still (q.v.); hence, colloquially, don't get into a passion, Go slow (q.v.).

Gentry-cove (or cofe). A gentleman, Nib-cove (q.v.): Fr., *messire de la haute* (1567).

Gentry-cove's Ken (Gentry-ken). A gentleman's house (1567).

Gentry-mort. A lady (1567).

Genuine (Winchester College). Praise. As adj., trustworthy, not false nor double-faced. As verb, to praise. He was awfully quilled and genuined my task.

Geordie (North Country). 1. A pitman; also (generally), a Northumbrian. 2. A North-country collier. 3. See George.

George (or Geordie). 1. A half-crown: also (obsolete), the noble (6s. 8d.), *temp.* Henry VIII. 2. A guinea: also Yellow George: see Rhino. 3. A penny: see Rhino. *Brown George.* See *Ante*. *By fore* (or *By George*). See By George.

George Horne. A derisive retort on a piece of stale news: also G. H.! [From a romancing compositor of the name.]

Georgy-porgy. To pet, fondle, beslobber.

German. *The German*, a round dance.

German Duck. 1. Half a sheep's head, stewed with onions (*Grose*). 2. A bed bug: see Norfolk Howard.

German - flutes (rhyming). A pair of boots.

Germantowner. A pushing shot—when balls in play jar together: cf. Whitechapel.

Gerry. Excrement (1567).

Gerry Gan. A retort forcible, Stow it! (q.v.) (1567).

Gerrymander (the g hard as in get). To arrange the electoral subdivisions of a State to the profit and advantage of a particular party. The term, says Norton, is derived from the name of Governor Gerry, of Massachusetts, who, in 1811, signed a Bill readjusting the representative districts so as to favour the Democrats and weaken the Federalists, although the last-named party polled nearly two-thirds of the votes cast. A fancied resemblance of a map of the districts thus treated led Stuart, the painter, to add a few lines with his pencil, and say to Mr. Russell, editor of the *Boston Sentinel*, 'That will do for a Salamander.' Russell glanced at it: 'Salamander,' said he, 'call it a Gerrymander!' The epithet took at once, and became a Federalist war-cry, the caricature being published as a campaign document.

Gerund-grinder. A schoolmaster, especially a pedant (1759).

Get. 1. A cheating contrivance, a Have (q.v.). 2. A child: e.g. One of his gets, one of his making; Whose get is that? who's the father? It's his get, anyhow; at all events he got it (1570). *Get!* (or *You get!*) Short for Get out! Usually, Git! *To get at*, (1) to quiz, banter, aggravate, take a rise out of: also To get back at. (2) To influence, bribe, nobble (of horses), and to corrupt (of persons): applied to horse, owner, trainer, jockey, and vet. alike. *To get back at*, to satirise, call to account. *Get back into your box !* an injunction to silence, Stow it ! (q.v.). *To get encored*, to have a job returned for alterations. *To get even with*, to take one's revenge, give tit for tat. *To get it*, to be punished (morally or physically), to be called over the coals. *To get off*, to (1) escape punishment, be let off; (2) to utter, deliver oneself of, perpetrate—as to get off a joke; and (3) get married. *To get on*, (1) to back a horse, put a Bit on (q.v.). (2) To succeed, or, simply, to fare. Thus, How are you getting on ? may signify (1) To what extent are you prospering ? or (2) How are you doing ? *To get one in the cold*, to have at an advantage, be on the Windward side (q.v.). Have on toast (q.v.). *To get one on*, to land a blow. *To get down fine* (or *close*), to know all about one's antecedents; and (police) know where to find one's man. *To get over*, to seduce, fascinate, dupe: also *To come over* and *To get round*. *To get outside of*, to eat or drink, accomplish one's purpose. *To get out of bed on the wrong side*, to be testy or cross-grained. [A corruption of an old saying, To rise on the right side is accounted lucky; hence the reverse meant trials to temper, patience, and luck.] (1607). *To get out* (or *round*), to back a horse against which one has previously laid, Hedge (q.v.). *To get set*, (1) to warm to one's work, get one's eye well in. *To get there*, to attain one's object, succeed, make one's Jack (q.v.), *To get there with both feet*, to be very successful; (2) to get drunk: see Screwed. *To get through*, to pass an examination, to accomplish. *To get up and dust*, to depart hastily: see Skedaddle. *To get up behind* (or *get behind*) *a man*, to endorse or back a bill. *To get up the mail*, to find money (as counsel's fees, etc.) for defence. *Get* enters into many other combinations: see Back teeth, Bag or Sack, Bead, Beans, Beat, Big bird, and Goose, Big head, Billet, Bit, Boat, Bolt, Books, Bulge, Bullet, Bull's feather, Crocketts, Dander and Monkey, Dark, Drop, Eye, Flannels, Flint, Game, Grand Bounce, Gravel-rash, Grind, Grindstone, Hand, Hang, Hat, Head, Hip or Hop, Home, Horn, Hot, Jack, Keen, Length of one's foot, Measure, Mitten, Needle, Religion, Rise, Run, Scot, Swot or Scrape, Set, Shut of, Silk, Snuff, Straight, Sun, Ticket of Leave, Wool, Wrong box.]

Getaway. A locomotive or train, Puffer (q.v.).

Getter. *A sure getter*, a procreant male.

Get-up. Dress, constitution and appearance, disguise: see Get-up. As verb. phr., (1) to prepare (a part, a paper, a case); (2) to arrange (a concert); (3) to dress (as Got up regardless (to the nines, knocker, to kill, within an inch of one's life); (4) to disguise (as a sailor, a soldier, Henry VIII., a butcher, a nun): see also Get into.

G.H. See George Horne.

Ghastly. Very: a popular intensitive: cf. Awful, Bloody, etc.

Ghost. One who secretly does artistic or literary work for another who takes the credit and receives the price: cf. Devil. [The term was popularised during the trial of Lawes *v.* Belt in 188(?).] As verb, to prowl, spy upon, shadow (q.v.). *The ghost walks* (or *does not walk*), there is (or is not) money in the treasury. *The ghost of a chance*, the faintest likelihood, or the slightest trace: e.g. He hasn't the ghost of a chance.

Ghoul. 1. A spy; specifically a man who preys on married women who addict themselves to assignation houses. 2. A newspaper chronicler of the small talk and tittle-tattle.

Gib. 1. Gibraltar: once a penal station: whence, 2. a gaol. *To hang one's gib*, to pout: see Jib.

Gibberish (**Gebberish, Gibberidge, Gibrige,** etc.). Originally the lingo of gipsies, beggars, etc. Now, any kind of inarticulate nonsense (1594).

Gibble-gabble. Nonsense, Gibberish (q.v.) (1600).

Gib-cat. A tom-cat. [An abbreviation of Gilbert=O. Fr., *Tibert* the cat in the fable of Reynard the Fox.] (1360).

Gibe. To go well with, be acceptable.

Gibel. To bring.

Gib-face. A heavy jowl, Ugly-mug (q.v.).

Giblets. 1. The intestines generally, the Manifold (q.v.). 2. A fat man, Forty-guts (q.v.): also Duke of Giblets. *To fret one's giblets*: see Fret.

Gibraltar. A party stronghold: *e.g.* the Gibraltar of Democracy (Norton).

Gibson (or **Sir John Gibson**). A rest to support the body of a building coach.

Gibus. An opera, or crush hat: Fr., *accordéon*. [From the name of the inventor.]

Giddy. Flighty, wanton: e.g. *To play the giddy goat*, to live a fast life, be happy-go-lucky.

Giffle-gaffle. Nonsense; a variant of Gibble-gabble (q.v.).

Gif-gaf (or **Giff-gaff**). A bargain on equal terms: whence the proverb: Gif-gaf makes guid friens: Fr., *Passe-moi la casse et je t'enverrai la senne.*

Gift. 1. Anything lightly gained or easily won. 2. A white speck on the finger nails, supposed to portend a gift. 3. See Gift-house. *As full of gifts as a brazen horse of farts*, mean, miserly, disinclined to Part (q.v.). *Gift of the gab*: see Gab.

Gift-house (or Gift). A club, a house of call; specifically for the purpose of finding employment, or providing allowances to members.

Gig (Gigg, Gigge). 1. A wanton, mistress, flighty girl: cf. Giglet. 2. A jest, piece of nonsense, anything fanciful or frivolous: hence, generally, in contempt (1590). 3. The nose: see Conk. *To snitchell the gig*, to pull the nose. *Grunter's gig*, a hog's snout. 4. A light two-wheeled vehicle drawn by one horse: now recognised. 5. A door: see Gigger. 6. A fool, an over-dressed person: see Buffle. 7. Fun, frolic, a spree. *Full of gig*, full of laughter, ripe for mischief. 8. The mouth: see Potato-trap. 9. A farthing: see Rhino. 10. See Policy dealing. As verb, to hamstring. *By gigs!* an oath (1551).

Gigamaree. A thing of little worth, a pretty but useless toy, a Gimcrack (q.v.).

Gigantomachize. To rise in revolt against one's betters: Gr., *Gigantomachia*, the War of the Giants against the Gods. [Probably a coinage of Ben Jonson's.]

Gigger. 1. A sewing machine. [In allusion to noise and movement). 2. See Jigger.

Giggles-nest. *Have you found a giggles-nest?* Asked of one tittering, or given to immoderate or senseless laughter.

Gig-lamps. 1. Spectacles: see Barnacles. 2. One who wears spectacles, a Four eyes (q.v.). [Popularised by Verdant Green.]

Gigler (Giglet, Goglet, Gigle, Gig). A wanton, a mistress. Giglet (West of England), a giddy, romping girl; and in Salop a flighty person is called a Giggle (1533). As adj., loose in word and deed: also Giglet-like, and Giglet-wise, like a wanton (1598).

Gild. To make drunk, flush with drink (1609). *To gild the pill*, to say (or do) unpleasant things as gently as may be, impose upon, Bamboozle (q.v.).

Gilded-rooster. A man of importance; a Howling swell (q.v.); sometimes the Gilded rooster on the top of the steeple: cf. Big-bug, Big dog of the tanyard, etc.

Gilderoy's-kite. *To be hung higher than Gilderoy's kite*, to be punished more severely than the very worst criminals, The greater the crime the higher the gallows, was at one time a practical legal axiom. Hence, out of sight, completely gone.

Giles' Greek. See St. Giles' Greek.

Gilguy. Anything which happens to have slipped the memory; equivalent to What's-his-name or Thingamytight.

Gilkes. Skeleton keys (1610).

Gill (or **Jill**). 1. A girl; (1) a sweetheart: e.g. every Jack must have his Gill; (2) a wanton, a strumpet (an abbreviation of Gillian) (1586). 2. a drink, a Go (q.v.). 3. (in pl. g hard). The mouth, jaws, or face: see Potato-trap (1622). 4. in. pl. A very large shirt collar: also Stick-ups and Side-boards: Fr., *cache-bonbon-à-liqueur*. *To grease the gills*, to have a good meal, to Wolf (q.v.). *To look blue* (*queer*, or *green*) *about the gills*, to be downcast, dejected; also to suffer from the effects of a debauch. Hence, conversely, To be rosy about the gills, to be cheerful. *A cant* (or *dig*) *in the gills*, a punch in the face.

Gill-flirt. A wanton, flirt (1598).

Gilly. A fool: see Buffle.

Gilly - gaupus. A tall, loutish fellow.

Gilt. 1. Money: generic: see

Rhino. [Ger.: *Geld*; Du.: *Gelt.*] 2. A thief, pick-lock; also Gilt- (or rum-) dubber, gilter, etc. 3. Formerly a pick-lock or skeleton key; now a crow-bar: see Jemmy (1671). *To take the gilt off the gingerbread*, to destroy an illusion, discount heavily.

Gilt-dubber. See Gilt, sense 2.

Gilt-edged. First-class, the best of its kind: see Fizzing.

Gilter. See Gilt, sense 2.

Gilt-tick. Gold: see Rhino.

Gimbal- (or gimber-) jawed. Loquacious, talking Nineteen to the dozen (q.v.). [Gimbals are a combination of rings for free suspension.]

Gimcrack (Gincrack, or Jimcrack). 1. A showy simpleton, male or female: see Buffle (1618). 2. A showy trifle, anything pretty but of little worth (1632). 3. A handy man, Jack-of-all-trades (q.v.). As adj., trivial, showy, worthless.

Gimcrackery. The world of Jimcrack (q.v.).

Gimlet-eye. A squint-eye, Piercer (q.v.): Fr., *des yeux en trou de pine.*

Gimlet-eyed. Squinting, or squinny-eyed, cock-eyed: as in the old rhyme: Gimlet eye, sausage nose, Hip awry, bandy toes.

Gimmer. An old woman: a variant of cummer.

Gin. 1. An Australian native woman. 2. An old woman: see Geezer. *To gin up*, to work hard, make things Hum (q.v.): see Wire in.

Gin-and-Gospel Gazette. The *Morning Advertiser*: as the organ of the Licensed Victualling and Church of England party: also the Tap-tub and Beer-and-Bible Gazette.

Gin-and-tidy. Decked out in best bib and tucker: a pun on neat spirits.

Gin-crawl. A tipple (q.v.) on gin.

Gingambobs (or Jiggumbobs). Toys, baubles (1696).

Ginger. 1. A showy horse, a beast that looks Figged (q.v.). 2. A red-haired person; Carrots (q.v.). [Whence the phrase, Black for beauty, ginger for pluck.] 3. Spirit, dash, Go (q.v.). *To want ginger*, to lack energy and Pluck (q.v.). As adj., red-haired, Foxy (q.v.), Judas-haired (q.v.); also ginger-pated, ginger-hackled, and gingery (1785).

Gingerbread. 1. Money: e.g. He has the gingerbread, he is rich (1696). 2. Brummagem (q.v.), showy, but worthless ware. As adj. showy but worthless, tinsel: Fr., *en pain d'épice. Gingerbread work* (nautical), carved and gilded decorations; *Gingerbread quarters* (nautical), luxurious living (1757). *To take the gilt off the gingerbread*: see Gilt.

Gingerly (old: now recognised) delicate, fastidious, dainty, as adv., with great care, softly (1533).

Ginger-pop. 1. Ginger-beer. 2. (rhyming), A policeman, Slop (q.v.).

Ginger-snap. A hot-tempered person, especially one with carroty hair.

Gingham. An umbrella; specifically one of this material: see Mushroom.

Gingle-boy. A coin; latterly a gold piece: also ginglers: see Rhino (1622).

Gin-lane (or Trap). 1. The throat: see Gutter-alley. Gin-trap also = the mouth: see Potato-trap (1827). 2. Generic for drunkenness.

Gin-mill. A drinking saloon: see Lush-crib.

Ginnified. Dazed, stupid with liquor.

Ginnums. An old woman: spec. one fond of drink.

Ginny. A housebreaker's tool; an instrument to lift up a grate or grating (1690).

Gin-penny. Extra profit: generally spent in drink.

Gin-slinger. A tippler on gin: see Lushington.

Gin-spinner. A distiller; a dealer in spirituous liquors: cf. Ale-spinner (1785).

Gin-twist. A drink composed of gin and sugar, with lemon and water (1841).

Gip. 1. A thief. 2. (Cambridge University) a college servant: see Gyp.

Girl-and-boy. A saveloy.

Girl-getter. A mincing, womanish male.

Girl-show. A ballet, burlesque, Leg-piece (q.v.).

Git! (or You Git!) Be off with you! an injunction to immediate departure, Walker! (q.v.). Sometimes a contraction of Get out! Also Get out and dust (1851). *To have no git up and git*, to be weak, vain, mean, slow—generally deprecatory.

Give. 1. To lead to, conduct, open upon: e.g. The door gave upon the street. Cf. French, *donner*. 2. An all-round auxiliary to active verbs: e.g. To give on praying, to excel at prayer; To give on the make, to be clever at making money, etc. *To give it to*, (1) to rob, defraud (*Grose*); (2) to scold, thrash: also To give what for, To give it hot, To give something for oneself, To give one in the eye, etc.: Fr., *aller en donner* (1612). *To give in* (or *out*), to admit defeat, yield, be exhausted throw up the sponge (1748); *to give away*, to betray or expose inadvertently, Blow upon (q.v.), Peach (q.v.): also to Give dead away: largely used in combination: e.g. *give-away*, an exposure; *give-away cue*, an underhand revelation of secrets; *to give one best*, (1) to acknowledge inferiority, defeat: also (thieves') to leave, To cut (q.v.); *to give the collar*, to seize, arrest, Collar (q.v.): see Nab; *to give the bullet* (*sack, bag, kick-out, pike, road*, etc.), to discharge from an employ; *give us a rest!* cease talking! an injunction upon a bore; *to give nature a fillip*, verb. phr. (old), to indulge, in wine, etc. (1696). Other combinations will be found under the following; Auctioneer, Back cap, Bag, Bail, Baste, Beans, Beef, Biff, Black eye, Bone, Bucket, Bullet, Bull's feather, Clinch, Double, Fig, Gas, Go by, Gravy, Hoist, Hot beef, Jesse, Kennedy, Key of the Street, Land, Leg up, Lip, Miller, Mitten, Mouth, Needle, Office, Points, Pussy, Rub of the thumb, Sack, Sky-high, Slip, Tail, Taste of Cream, Turnips, Weight, White alley, Word.

Giver. A good boxer, an artist in punishment (q.v.) (1824).

Gixie. A wanton, strumpet, affected mincing woman (1598).

Gizzard. *To fret one's gizzard*, to worry; *To stick in one's gizzard*, to remain as something unpleasant (distasteful or offensive), be hard of digestion, disagreeable or unpalatable; *To grumble in the gizzard*, to be secretly displeased; Hence, Grumble-gizzard (q.v.).

Gladstone. 1. Cheap claret (Mr. Gladstone, when in office in 1869, reduced the duty on French wines): see Drinks. 2. A travelling bag (named in honour of Mr. Gladstone).

Gladstonize. To talk about and round, evade, prevaricate, speak much and mean nothing.

Glanthorne. Money: see Rhino. (1789).

Glasgow Greys. The 70th Foot, now the 2nd battalion East Surrey regiment: in the beginning it was largely recruited in Glasgow.

Glasgow Magistrate. A herring, fresh or salted, of the finest (from the practice of sending samples to the Bailie of the River for approval): also Glasgow bailie. English synonyms (for herrings generally); Atlantic ranger, Californian, Cornish duck, Digby chicken, Dunbar wether, gendarme, Gourock ham, magistrate, pheasant, (or Billingsgate pheasant), reds, sea-rover, soldier, Taunton turkey, two-eyed steak, Yarmouth capon: Fr., *gendarme*.

Glass. An hour: an abbreviation of hour-glass. *There's a deal of glass about*, (1) applied to vulgar display, It's the thing (q.v.); (2) said in answer to an achievement in assertion: a memory of the proverb, People who live in glass houses should not throw stones. *Who's to pay for the broken glass?* (stand the racket); *been looking through a glass*, drunk: see Screwed.

Glass-eyes. A man wearing spectacles, Four-eyes (q.v.), Gig-lamps (q.v.) (1811).

Glass-house. *To live in a glass house*, to lay oneself open to attack or adverse criticism.

Glass-work. An obsolete method of cheating at cards: a convex mirror the size of a small coin was fastened with shellac to the lower corner of the left palm opposite the thumb, enabling the dealer to ascertain by reflection the value of the cards he dealt.

Glaze. A window (1696). As verb, to cheat at cards by means of glass-work (q.v.), or by means of a mirror at the back of one's antagonist. *To mill* (or *star a glaze*), to break a window (1823); *on the glaze*, robbing jewellers' shops by smashing the windows: see Glazier (1724).

Glazier. 1. The eye: see Glims: Fr., *les ardents* (1567). 2. A window thief: see Thief.

Gleaner. A thief (q.v.): cf. Hooker, Angler, etc.

Glib. The tongue: e.g. Slacken

your glib, loose your tongue: see Clack. 2. A ribbon (1754). As adj., smooth, slippery, voluble; *Glib-tongued* (or Glib-gabbit), talkative, ready of speech (1605).

Glibe. Writing; spec. a written statement.

Glim (or **Glym**). 1. A candle, dark lanthorn, fire, or light of any kind. *To douse the glim*, to put out the light: Fr., *estourbir la cabande*; also short for Glimmer or Glymmar (q.v.) (1696). 2. A sham account of a fire, sold by the Flying stationers (q.v.). 3. In pl., the eyes. English synonyms: blinkers, daylights, deadlights, glaziers, lights, lamps, ogles, optics, orbs, peepers, sees, squinters, toplights, windows, winkers. 4. In pl., a pair of spectacles, Barnacles (q.v.). As verb, to brand, burn in the hand (1696). *To puff the glims*, to fill the hollow over the eyes of old horses by pricking the skin and blowing air into the loose tissues underneath, thus giving the full effect of youth.

Glim-fenders. 1. Andirons, fire-dogs (1696). 2. Handcuffs (a pun on sense 1).

Glimflashly (or **Glim-flashey**). Angry: see Nab the Rust (1696).

Glim-jack. A link boy, Moon-curser (q.v.); but, in any sense, a thief (1696).

Glim-lurk. A beggars' petition, based on a fictitious fire or Glim (sense 2).

Glimmer (**Glymmar**). Fire.

Glimmerer. A beggar working with a petition giving out that he is ruined by fire: also Glimmering mort, a female glimmerer (1696).

Glimstick. A candlestick: Fr., *occasion*.

Glister. Glister of fish hooks, a glass of Irish whisky.

Glistner. A sovereign: 20s.: see Rhino.

Gloak (or **Gloach**). A man: see Chum and Cove.

Globe. 1. A pewter pot, pewter (1704). 2. In pl., the paps: see Dairy.

Globe-rangers. The Royal Marines.

Globe-trotter. A traveller; primarily one who races from place to place, with the object of covering ground or making a record: Fr., *pacquelineur*. Whence, *Globe-trotting*, travelling after the manner of Globe-trotters (q.v.).

Glope (Winchester College). To spit: obsolete.

Glorious. Excited with drink, in one's altitudes, Boozed: see Screwed (1791).

Glorious-sinner. A dinner.

Glory. The after life, Kingdom come (q.v.): usually, the coming glory. *In one's glory*, in the full flush of vanity, pride, taste, notion, or idiosyncrasy.

Gloves. *To go for the gloves*, to bet recklessly, bet against a horse without having the wherewithal to pay if one loses—the last resource of the plunging turfite: the term is derived from the frequent habit of ladies to bet in pairs of gloves, expecting to be paid if they win, but not to be called upon to pay if they lose.

Glow. Ashamed.

Glue. Thick soup: which sticks to the ribs. English synonyms: deferred stock, belly-gum, giblets-twist, gut-concrete, rib-tickler, stick-in-the-ribs.

Glue-pot. A parson: see Devil-dodger and Sky-pilot (1785).

Glum. Sullen, down in the mouth, stern: Fr., *faire son nez*, to look glum; also, *n'en pas mener large* (1712).

Glump. To sulk: hence *glumpy*, *glumping*, and *glumpish*, sullen, stubborn (1787).

Glutman. An inferior officer of the Customs, and particularly a supernumerary tide waiter, employed temporarily when there is a stress or hurry of business. These glutmen were generally without regular employment, and also without character, their principal recommendation the fact of being able to write (1797).

Glutton. 1. A horse which lasts well, Stayer (q.v.). 2. A pugilist who can take a lot of punishment (q.v.).

Gnarler. A watch dog.

Gnasp. To vex: see Rile. (1728).

Gnoff. See Gonnof.

Gnostic. A knowing one, Downy cove (q.v.), Whipster (q.v.) (1819). As adj., knowing, Artful (q.v.); whence *Gnostically*, knowing.

Go. 1. A drink; specifically a quartern of gin: formerly Go-down (1690). English synonyms: bender, caulker, coffin nail, common-sewer, cooler, crack, cry, damp, dandy, dash, dewhank, dewdrop, dodger, drain, dam, facer, falsh, gargle, gasp, go-down, hair of the dog, etc., Johnny, lip, liquor up, livener, lotion, lounce, modest quencher, muzzler, nail from one's coffin, night-cap, nip or nipper, nobbler, old crow, a one, a two, or a three out, peg, pick-me-up, pony, quencher, reviver, rince, sensation, settler, shift, shove in the mouth, slug, small cheque, smile, snifter, something damp, something short, swig, thimbleful, tiddly, top up, tot, warmer, waxer, wet, whitewash, yard. 2. An incident, occurrence: e.g. a *Rum go*, a strange affair, queer start; a *Pretty go*, a startling business; a *Capital go*, a pleasant business (1803). 3. The fashion, the Cheese (q.v.), the correct thing: generally in the phrase All the go. 4. Life, spirit, energy, enterprise, impetus: e.g. *Plenty of go*, full of spirit and dash: Fr., *du chien* (1825). 5. A turn, attempt, chance: cf. No go: hence, *to have a go at*, to make essay of anything: as a man in a fight, a shot at billiards, etc. 6. A success: hence *To make a go of it*, to bring things to a satisfactory termination. 7. The last card at cribbage, or the last piece at dominoes: when a player is unable to follow the lead, he calls a Go! 8. A dandy (q.v.), a very heavy swell, one in the extreme of fashion. As verb, (1) to vote, be in favour of: cf. Go for; (2) to succeed, achieve, cf. Go down; (3) to wager, risk: hence to stand treat, afford (1768); (4) to ride to hounds; (5) to be pregnant, to be anticipating childbirth (1561). Phrases: *Go down*, (1) to be accepted, received, swallowed, to Wash (q.v.) (1609); (2) to be under discipline, rusticated; (3) to become bankrupt; also, To go under; *To go due north*, to go bankrupt (i.e. to go to White-cross Street Prison, once situate in north London); *to go on the dub*, to house-break, pick locks (1696); *to go to the dogs*, to go to ruin; *to go off on the ear*, to get angry, fly into a tantrum: see Nab the rust; *to go for*, (1) to attempt, tackle, resolve upon, to make for (q.v.); (2) to attack violently and directly, by word or deed; (3) to support, favour, vote for; (4) to criticise; specifically, to run down; *to go in for* (or *at*), to enter for, apply oneself to (e.g. to go in for honours); also to devote oneself to (e.g. to pay court), to take up (as a pastime, pursuit, hobby, or principle); *to go it*, to act with vigour and daring, advocate or speak strongly, live freely: also to go it blind, fast, bald-headed, strong, etc. (1689). As intj. phrase, Keep at it! keep it up!—a general (sometimes ironical) expression of encouragement: also Go it ye cripples, crutches are cheap! (or Newgate's on fire), Go it, my tulip, Go it, my gay and festive cuss! (Artemus Ward), or (American), Go it boots! go it rags! I'll hold your bonnet! g'lang! (usually to a man making the pace on foot or horseback); *to go out*, to fall into disuse; *to go over*, (1) to desert from one side to another: specifically (clerical) to join the Church of Rome, to 'Vert (q.v.); (2) to die, i.e. to *go over*, to join the majority: also to *go off*, to *go off the hooks* (*go under*, *go aloft*, to *go up*); (3) to attack, rifle, rob; *to go off*, (1) to take place, occur; (2) to be disposed of (as goods on sale, or a woman in marriage); (3) to deteriorate (as fish by keeping, or a woman with years); (4) to die: see Hop the twig (1606); *Go as you please*, applied to races where competitors run, walk, or rest at will: e.g. in time and distance races: hence, general freedom of action; *to go to Bath*, *Putney*, etc. (see Bath, Blazes, Hell, Halifax, etc.); *to go through*, to rob: i.e. to turn inside out: hence, to master violently and completely, make an end of; *to go up* (or *under*), (1) to go to wreck and ruin, become bankrupt, disappear from society; also (2) to die; *to go up*, to die; specifically to die by the rope; *to go up for*, to enter for (as an examination); *to go with*, to agree, harmonise with; *on the go*, on the move, restlessly active; *no go*, of no use, not to be done, complete failure: frequently contracted to N.G.; *a little bit on the go*, slightly inebriated, elevated: see Screwed. For other combinations see Abroad, All fours, Aloft, Aunt, Baby, Back on, Bad, Bail, Baldheaded, Bath, Batter, Bedfordshire, Beggar's bush, Better, Blazes, Blind, Board, Bodkin, Bulge, Bungay, Bury, Bust, By-by, Call, Camp, Chump, College, Cracked, Dead broke, Devil, Ding, Ding-dong, Dock, Doss, Drag, Flouch, Flue, Gamble, Glaze, Glory, Gloves, Grain, Grass, Ground, Hairyfordshire, Hall, Halves, Hang, Hell, High fly, High toby, Hooks, Hoop, Jericho, Jump, Kitchen, Man, Majority, Mill, Murphy, Pace, Pieces, Pile, Pot, Queen, Raker, Range, Rope-walk, Salt river, Shallow, Shop, Slow, Smash, Snacks, Snooks, Spout, Star-gazing, Sweet violets, Top, Walker's 'bus, West, Whole animal, Woodbine, Woolgathering, Wrong.

Goad. 1. A decoy at auctions, a horse-chaunter, a Peter funk (q.v.). 2, In pl., false dice.

Goal (Winchester College). (1) At football the boy who stands at the centre of each end, acting as umpire; and (2) the score of three points made when the ball is kicked between his legs, or over his head, without his touching it.

Goaler's Coach. See Gaoler's Coach.

Go-along. A fool, Flat (q.v.): see Buffle.

Goat. A lecher (1599). As verb, to thrash. *To play the goat,* to play the fool, Monkey (q.v.): Fr., *faire l'oiseau*; *to ride the goat,* to be initiated into a secret society (the vulgar error is that a live goat, for candidates to ride, is one of the standing properties of a Masonic lodge).

Goatee. A tufted beard on the point of a shaven chin (in imitation of the tuft of hair on a goat's chin). English synonyms (for a beard generally): charley, imperial, Newgate (or sweep's) frill, or fringe.

Goater. Dress.

Goatish adj. (old, now recognised). Lecherous [as vieing with a goat in lust.] Hence *Goatishly,* adv., and *Goatishness,* subs.

Go-away. A railway-train.

Gob (or **Gobbett**). 1. A portion, mouthful, a morsel; also a gulp, Bolt (q.v.) (1380). 2. The mouth: e.g. *Shut your gob,* an injunction to silence: see Gab; *a spank on the gob,* a blow on the mouth; *gob-full of claret,* a bleeding at the mouth; *gift of the gab* (or *gob*): see Gab. (1696.) 3. A mouthful of spittle: Fr., *copeau*: It., *smalzo di cavio* (gutter-butter). As verb, (1) to swallow in mouthfuls, gulp down: also Gobble (q.v.). (2) to expectorate: Fr., *glavioter, molarder.*

Gobbie. A coastguardsman; whence *gobbie-ship,* a man-of-war engaged in the preventive service.

Gobble (or **Gobble-up**). To swallow hastily or greedily; hence (American) to seize, capture, appropriate: also gob: e.g. Gob that! (1602).

Gobbler. 1. A duck (*Harman*); 2. A turkey cock, Bubbly-jock (q.v.): also Gobble-cock (1785). 3. The mouth: see Potato-trap. 4. A greedy eater; hence *gobbling,* gorging.

Go-between. A pimp or bawd: now an intermediary of any kind (1596).

Goblin. A sovereign, 20s.: see Rhino.

Gob-box. The mouth: see Potato-trap (1773).

Gob-stick. A silver table-spoon (in America, either spoon or fork); also (nautical), a horn or wooden spoon.

Gob-string (or **Gab-string**). A bridle (*Grose*).

Go-by. The act of passing, an evasion, a deception. *To give one the go-by,* to cut, leave in the lurch.

Go-by-the-ground. A dumpy man or woman (*Grose*).

God. 1. In pl., the occupants of a theatre gallery (said to have been first used by Garrick because they were seated on high, and close to the sky-painted ceiling: Fr., *paradis,* also *poulailler* (1772). 2. In pl., Quadrats used in Jeffing (q.v.). 3. A block pattern. *Gods of cloth,* classical tailors (*Grose*). 4. A boy in the sixth form (Eton). *A sight for the gods,* a matter of wonderment; *God pays!* an expression at one time much in the mouth of disbanded soldiers and sailors (who assumed a right to live on the public charity): the modern form is, If I don't pay you, God Almighty will (1605); *God* (or *Bramah*) *knows, I don't*; an emphatic rejoinder (1598).

Goddess Diana. A sixpence, Tanner (q.v.): see Rhino.

Godfather. A juryman (1598). *To stand Godfather,* to pay the reckoning (godfathers being the objects of much solicitude and expectation) (1811).

Go-down. 1. A draught of liquor, Go (q.v.). 2. (American), a cutting in the bank of a stream for enabling animals to cross or to get to water.

God-permit. A stage coach (which was advertised to start *Deo volente*) (*Grose*).

God's-mercy. Ham (or bacon) and eggs (There's nothing in the house but

God's mercy: at one time a common answer in country inns to travellers in quest of provant).

God's-penny. An earnest penny (1696).

Go-easter. A portmanteau, Peter (q.v.) (because seldom used except in going city- or east-wards).

Goer. 1. The foot: see Creepers. 2. An expert or adept; as in drawing, talking, riding; one well up to his (or her) work: generally with an adjective, as e.g. a fast goer, a good workman.

Goff. See Mrs. Goff.

Goggles. 1. A goggle-eyed person: also Goggler (1647). 2. In pl. The eyes: also Goggle-eyes. *Goggle-eyed*, squint-eyed (1598). 3. In pl. spectacles, Barnacles (q.v.). As verb (Goggle), to roll the eyes, stare (1577).

Gogmagog. A goblin, monster, a frightful apparition (*Hood*).

Going. The condition of a road, piece of ground, cinder-path: i.e. the accommodation for travelling: e.g. the going is bad.

Goings-on. Behaviour, proceedings, conduct: cf. Carryings on.

Goldarned (Goldurned, Goldasted, etc.). A mild form of oath.

Gold-backed 'Un. A louse: also Grey-backed 'un: see Chates.

Gold-bug. A man of wealth and (inferentially) distinction, a millionaire: see Bug.

Gold-dropper. A sharper: an old-time worker of the confidence trick: also Gold-finder (1696).

Golden-cream. Rum.

Gold-end Man. An itinerant jeweller, a buyer of old gold and silver: also Goldsmith's apprentice (1610).

Golden Grease. A fee, a bribe: see Palm oil.

Goldfinch. 1. A well-to-do man, a Warm 'un (q.v.) (1696). 2. A guinea, a sovereign; see Rhino (1700).

Gold-finder. 1. An emptier of privies: also Gong-man, and Night-man: Fr., *fouillemerde*, *fifi* (1611). 2. A thief, Gold-dropper (q.v.): see Thief.

Gold Hat-band. A nobleman undergraduate, Tuft (q.v.) (1628).

Goldie-locks. A flaxen-haired woman. *Goldy-locked*, golden haired (1598).

Gold Mine. A profitable investment, store of wealth—material or intellectual (1664).

Golgotha. 1. The Dons' gallery at Cambridge; also applied to a certain part of the theatre at Oxford (that is, The place of skulls: cf. Luke xxiii. 33, and Matthew xxvii. 33, whence the pun: Dons being the heads of houses) (1730). 2. A hat. English synonyms: battle of the Nile (rhyming, i.e. a tile (q.v.), bell-topper, billy-cock, beaver, box-hat, cady, canister cap, castor, chummy, cathedral, chimney, chimney-pot, cock, colleger, cock-and-pinch, cowshooter, David, deer-stalker, digger's delight, fantail, felt, Gibus, gomer (Winchester), goss, moab, molocher, mortar-board, muffin-cap, mushroom, nab, nap, napper, pantile, pimple-cover, pill-box, plug-hat, pot, shako, shovel, sleepless hat, sou'-wester, stove-pipe, strawer, thatch, tile, topper, truck, upper-crust, wash-pot, wee-jee, wide-awake.

Goliath. 1. A big man. 2. A man of mark among the Philistines (q.v.). [Mr. Swinburne described the late Matthew Arnold as David, the son of Goliath.]

Goll. The hand; usually in pl. See Daddle (1601).

Gollop. To swallow greedily, gulp: see Wolf.

Gollumpus. A clumsy lout (*Grose*).

Golly. A contraction of By Golly! (q.v.).

Goloptious (or Golopshus). Splendid, fine, delicious, luscious.

Gombeen-man. A usurer, money-lender, sharking middleman.

Gomer (Winchester College). 1. A large pewter dish used in college. Also, 2. A new hat.

Gommy. A dandy: Fr., *gommeux*. 2. One who calls Mr. Gladstone a G.O.M. [Grand Old Man], and thinks he has made a good joke. 3. A fool: see Buffle.

Gomus. A fool: see Buffle.

Gondola. 1. A railway platform car, sideless or low-sided: also a flat-bottomed boat.

Gondola of London. A hansom cab, Shoful (q.v.). [The description is Lord Beaconsfield's.]

Gone. 1. Ruined, totally undone: also, adv., an expression of completeness: e.g. Gone beaver, corbie, coon, gander, or goose, a man or an event past praying for (1406). *Gone on*, enamoured of, infatuated with, Mashed on (q.v.), Sweet on (q.v.): generally in contempt: Fr., *aimer comme ses petits boyaux.*

Goner (**Gones, Gonus,** or **Goney**). 1. A fool, simpleton; also Gauney (q.v.): see Buffle. 2. A person past recovery, utterly ruined, or done for in any way.

Gong (or **Gong-house**). A privy: see Mrs. Jones.

Gong-farmer (or **Gong-man**). An emptier of cess-pools, Gold-finder (q.v.) (1598).

Gonof (**Gonnof, Gonoph,** or **Gnof**). 1. A thief (q.v.); specifically a pick-pocket, and especially an adept. [From the Hebrew. Ancient English; a legacy from the old time Jews. It came into use again with the moderns who employ it commonly. Cf. *gonov,* thief in Ex. xxii. 2 and 6, viz. If the *gonov* be found.] 2. A bumpkin, churl, clumsy hand, shameless simpleton (1383). As verb, to wheedle, cheat, steal. Hence, *gonophing,* picking pockets.

Gooby. A simpleton, blockhead: see Buffle.

Good! An abbreviation of Good-night! As adj., responsible, solvent: principally with for; e.g. He is good for any amount: also, expert (1598). *Good goods,* in pl., something worth trying for, a success: in superlative, best goods. *Bit* (or *piece*) *of goods,* a woman: see Petticoat. *Good old* . . . A familiar address, derisive or affectionate according to circumstances. *To feel good,* to be jolly, comfortable, in form, on perfect terms with oneself; *to be in one's good books,* to be in favour, in good opinion: conversely, *to be in one's bad books,* to be in disfavour; *good at it* (or *at the game*), an expert, male or female; *to have a good swim*: see Swim; *for good* (or *for good and all*), completely, entirely, finally (1672); *good as wheat*: see Wheat; *good as a play*: see Play; *good as gold,* very good; *as good as they make 'em,* see Make 'em; *good-bye, John,* it's no go; all's U.P.; *good cess,* good luck (probably an abbreviation of success: *bad cess,* the reverse.

Goodfellow (**Good-boy,** or **Goodman**). 1. A roysterer, a boon companion (1570). 2. A thief (q.v.) (1608).

Good Girl (or **Good One**). A wanton (1611).

Goodman. 1. A gaoler, Dubsman (q.v.) (1721). 2. The devil.

Goodman-turd. A contemptible fellow, Bad-egg (q.v.) (1598).

Good Night! The dovetail to an incredible statement or surprising piece of news.

Good-people. The fairies (1828).

Good (or **Good old**) **Sort.** A man of social or other parts.

Good Thing. Something worth having or backing, a *bon mot,* Good goods (q.v.): in racing a Cert (q.v.) (1844).

Good Time. A carouse, friendly gathering, enjoyable bout at anything. Hence, *To have a good time,* to be fortunate or lucky, enjoy oneself, make merry (1596).

Good 'un. 1. A man, woman, or thing of decided and undoubted merit. 2. An expression of derisive unbelief: e.g. a lie.

Good-wooled. Of unflinching courage, the greatest merit, thoroughly dependable.

Goody. 1. A matron: the correlative of goodman, husband: used like auntie, mother, and gammer, in addressing or describing an inferior (1598). Hence goodyship, ladyship. 2. A religious hypocrite — male or female, the 'unco guid' of Burns; hence goody-goodyism, sentimental piety. 3. Generally in pl., sweetmeats, bonbons, cakes and buns. 4. The kernel of a nut. As adj., well-meaning but petty, officiously pious: also Goody-goody.

Gook. A low prostitute: see Tart.

Goose. 1. A tailor's smoothing iron (whose handle is shaped like the neck of the bird): hence the old ditton, A tayler be he ever so poor is sure to have a goose at his fire (*Grose*): Fr., *gendarme* (1606). 2. A simpleton: usually only of women: also Goose-cap (q.v.) (1591). 3. A reprimand, Wigging (q.v.). 4. See Wayz goose. 5. A woman. As verb, (1) to hiss, condemn by hissing: also to get the goose or the big bird (q.v.): Fr., *appeler* (or *siffler*) *Azor* (to whistle a dog, Azor being a common canine appellation), *boire une goutte* (to be goosed); (2) to ruin, spoil: see Cook one's goose; (3) to mend boots by putting on a new front half-way up, and a new bottom; otherwise to foot boots: cf. Fox.

Goose without gravy, a severe but bloodless blow: see Wipe; *to be sound on the goose*, before the civil war, to be sound on the pro-slavery question; now, to be generally staunch on party matters, to be politically orthodox; *to find fault with a fat goose*, to grumble without rhyme or reason (1690); *to kill the goose for the golden eggs*, to grasp at more than is due, over-reach oneself (from the Greek fable); *everything is lovely and the goose hangs high*: see Everything; *he'll be a man among the geese when the gander is gone*, ironical, He'll be a man before his mother; *Go! shoe the goose*, a retort, derisive or incredulous, the modern To hell and pump thunder. *Unable to say boh! to a goose*, said of a bashful person (*Grose*); see also Wild-goose chase.

Goose-and-gridiron. The American eagle, and the United States flag: see Gridiron.

Gooseberry. 1. A fool: see Buffle. 2. A chaperon, one who takes third place to save appearances or play propriety (q.v.), a daisy- or gooseberry-picker. 3. A marvellous tale, a Munchausen (q.v.), flim-flam: also gigantic and giant gooseberry. Hence *Gooseberry season*, the dull time of journalism, when the appearance of monstrous vegetables, sea serpents, showers of frogs, and other portents is chronicled in default of news: also Silly season (q.v.). *To play* (or *do*) *gooseberry*, to play propriety; also to sit third in a hansom: cf. Bodkin; *to play old gooseberry*, to play the deuce, upset, spoil, throw everything into confusion; also (*Lex. Bal.*), said of a person who, by force or threats, suddenly puts an end to a riot or disturbance; *Old gooseberry*, the devil (see Skipper).

Gooseberry-eyed. Grey-eyed (*Lex. Bal.*, 1811).

Gooseberry-grinder. The breech.

Gooseberry-lay. Stealing linen from a line.

Gooseberry-picker. 1. A person whose labour profits, and is credited to, another, a Ghost (q.v.). 2. A chaperon: see Gooseberry.

Gooseberry-pudding. A woman: see Petticoat.

Gooseberry-wig. A large frizzled wig; Perhaps (*Grose*) from a supposed likeness to a gooseberry bush.

Goosecap. A booby—male or female, Noodle (q.v.): see Buffle (1593).

Goose-egg. No score, Love (q.v.): also Gooser.

Goose-flesh (or **Goose-skin**). A peculiar tingling of the skin produced by cold or fear, etc., the sensation described as Cold water down the back, the Creeps (q.v.) (1824).

Goose-gog (or **Goose-gob**). A gooseberry.

Goose-month. The lying-in month: cf. Gander-month.

Goose-persuader. A tailor: see Snip.

Gooser. 1. A settler, knock-out blow, the act of death. 2. No score, a Goose-egg (q.v.).

Goose-riding. See Gander-pulling.

Goose's Gazette. A lying story, flim-flam tale: that is, a piece of reading for a goose.

Goose-shearer. A beggar.

Goose-step. 1. Balancing on one foot and moving the other back and forwards without taking a step: a preliminary in military drill, the *pons asinorum* of the raw recruit. Also, 2. (more loosely) marking time: that is, lifting the feet alternately without advancing.

Goose-turd Green. A light yellowish green (*Cotgrave*).

Goosey-gander. A fool: see Buffle.

Gopher. 1. A young thief; spec. a boy employed by burglars to enter houses through windows, skylights, etc. (in natural history, Gopher, a burrowing squirrel). 2. A rude wooden plough: Southern States.

Goree. Money; spec. gold or gold-dust: Fort Goree is on the Gold Coast: see Rhino (1696).

Gorge. 1. A heavy meal, Tuck-in (q.v.), Blow-out (q.v.) (1553). 2. A theatrical manager: an abbreviation of Gorger (q.v.). As verb, to eat voraciously; also to gulp as a fish does when it swallows (or gorges) a bait: see Wolf (1572).

Gorger. 1. A voracious eater, Scruncher (q.v.). *Rotten gorger*, a lad who hangs about Covent Garden or other markets, eating refuse fruit. 2. A well-dressed man, a gentleman: Fr., *un gratiné*. Gipsy, *gorgio*, gentlemen.] 3. An employer: a principal: spec. the manager of a theatre: also

Cully-gorger: Fr., *amendier*. 4. A neckerchief (1320).

Gorgonzola Hall. Formerly the New Hall of the Stock Exchange; now the corporation generally. [From the veinings of the marble.]

Gorm. To Gorge (q.v.): see Wolf. *I'm gormed*, a profane oath: see Gaum (1849).

Gormagon. 'A monster with six eyes, three mouths, four arms, eight legs, five on one side and three on the other, three arses, two tarses, and a cunt upon its back:—a man on horseback with a woman behind him' (*Grose*).

Gormy-ruddles. The intestines.

Gorram (or **Goram**). See By goldam.

Gorry. See By Gorry!

Goschens. The 2¾ per cent. Government Stock created by Mr. Goschen in 1888.

Gosh. See By gosh.

Gospel. 1. Anything offered as absolutely true: also Gospel-truth. *To do gospel*, to go to church.

Gospel-gab. Insincere talk concerning religion, cant.

Gospel-grinder (postilion, sharp, or shark). A parson, devil-dodger, sky-pilot.

Gospeller. An Evangelist preacher: in contempt: also Hot-gospeller, a preaching fanatic.

Gospel-mill (or shop). A church or chapel, Doxology-works (q.v.) (1785).

Goss (or **Gossamer**). A hat: at first a make of peculiar lightness called a Four-and-nine (q.v.): occasionally, a white hat: see Golgotha (1836). *To give* (or *get*) *goss*, to requite an injury, kill, go strong, get an opportunity, put in big licks (q.v.): sometimes ejaculatory, as Give me goss and let me rip!

Gossoon. A boy: Fr., *garçon*.

Gotch-gutted. Pot-bellied; a gotch in Norfolk, signifying a pitcher or large round jug (*Grose*).

Got 'em bad. A superlative of earnestness or excess: e.g. any one doing his work thoroughly, a horse straining every nerve, a very sick person, spec. a subject of the Horrors (q.v.).

Got 'em on (all on). Dressed in the height of fashion, rigged out.

Goth. A frumpish or uncultured person; one behind the times or ignorant of the ways of society (1712). Hence *Gothic*, rustic, rude, uncultured.

Gotham. New York city: hence, Gothamite, a New Yorker: first used by Washington Irving in *Salmagundi* (1807).

Go-to-meeting bags (clothes, dress, etc.). Best clothes: as worn on Sundays, or holiday occasions (1837).

Gouge. An imposture, swindle, method of cheating (1845). As verb, (1) to defraud; also (2) to squeeze out a man's eye with the thumb, a cruel practice used by the Bostonians in America (*Grose*).

Gouger. A cheat, swindler, rook.

Gourd. Hollow dice filled with lead to give a bias (1544).

Gourock ham. A salt herring (Gourock was formerly a great fishing village): see Glasgow Magistrate.

Government-man. A convict.

Government-securities. Handcuffs, fetters generally: see Darbies.

Government-signpost. The gallows: see Nubbing-cheat.

Governor (or **Guv**). 1. A father, relieving officer, old 'un, pater, nibso: also applied to elderly people in general: Fr., *géniteur* and *l'ancien* (the old 'un) (1836). 2. A mode of address: Fr., *bourgeois*. 3. A master or superior, an employer. English synonyms: boss, captain, chief, colonel, commander, head-cook and bottle-washer, gorger, omee, rum-cull.

Governor's-stiff. A pardon.

Gower-street Dialect. See Medical Greek.

Gowk. A simpleton (Scots' Gowk, a cuckoo): see Buffle. Also a countryman: see Joskin. *To hunt the gowk*, to go on a fool's errand.

Gowler. A dog; spec. a howler.

Gown (Winchester College). 1. Coarse brown paper: obsolete. 2. (University). The schools as distinguished from the Town (q.v.): e.g. Town and gown. Hence, *gownsman*, a student.

Grab. 1. A sudden clutch. 2. A robbery, steal (q.v.): cf. Grab-gains. 3. A body-stealer, resurrectionist (q.v.). 4. A boisterous game at cards. As verb, (1) to pinch (q.v.), seize, apprehend, snatch or steal. *Grabbed*, arrested (1811); (2) to hold on, get along, live.

Grab-all. 1. An avaricious person, greedy-guts (q.v.). 2. A bag to carry odds and ends — parcels, books, and so forth.

Grabber. In pl., the hands: see Daddle.

Grabble. To seize, grab (q.v.) (1811).

Grabby. An infantry-man: in contempt by the mounted arm: Fr., *marionnette*.

Grab-gains. The trick of snatching a purse, etc., and making off.

Grab-game (coup, or racket). A mode of swindling: the sharpers start by betting among themselves; then the bystanders are induced to join, stakes are deposited, and lastly, there is a row, when one of the gang grabs the stakes and decamps.

Grace-card. The six of hearts (for origin see *N. and Q.*, 5th Series, iv. 137).

Gracemans. Gracechurch Street Market (1610).

Graduate. 1. A horse that has been run. 2. An adept, artful member (q.v.). As verb, to seek and acquire experience—in life, love, society, or trade; and so on.

Gradus. A mode of cheating: a particular card is so placed by the shuffler that when he hands the pack to be cut, it projects a little beyond the rest; the chance being that it forms the turn-up. Also called the step (q.v.).

Gradus-ad-parnassum. The treadmill: see Wheel-of-life.

Graft. Work, employment, lay (q.v.): e.g. what graft are you on now? *Great-graft*, profitable labour, good biz (q.v.). As verb, (1) to work: Fr., *bausser*, *membrer*; (2) to steal; (3) to cuckold, plant horns (1696); (4) to sole old boots: cf. Goose and Translate.

Grampus. A fat man: see Forty-guts. *To blow the grampus*, to drench; also to sport in the water.

Grand. Short for grand piano. As adj., a general superlative. *To do the grand*, to put on airs.

Grand Bounce. See Bounce.

Grandmother. *To see one's grandmother*, to have a nightmare. *To shoot one's grandmother*, to be mistaken, find a mare's nest, be disappointed: commonly, You've shot your grannie. *To teach one's grandmother* (or *grannie*) *how to suck eggs*, to instruct an expert in his own particular line of business, talk old to one's seniors (1811). *My Grandmother's Review*, the *British Review*: the nickname was Lord Byron's.

Grand-strut. The Broad Walk in Hyde Park (1823).

Granger. 1. A member of the Farmers' Alliance; a secret American society, nominally non-political, but really taking a hand in politics when occasion offered to favour agricultural interests: during the decade of years ending 1870 it attained to great numerical strength, and extended throughout the United States: see Agricultural wheel. 2. Hence, a farmer, countryman, any one from the rural districts.

Grangerise. To fill out a book with portraits, landscapes, title-pages, and illustrations generally, not done for it. Hence *Grangerism*, the practice of illustrating a book with engravings, etc., from other sources: from the practice of illustrating Granger's *Bibliographical History of England*. Also *Grangerite*, a practitioner in Grangerism.

Grannam. Corn (1563).

Grannam's-gold. Inherited wealth.

Granny. 1. A bad knot with the second tie across; as opposed to a reef knot in which the end and outer part are in line: also Granny's knot or Granny's bend. 2. Conceit of superior knowledge. As verb, to know, recognise, swindle (1851).

Grape-shot. Drunk: see Screwed.

Grape-vine. A hold in wrestling.

Grape-vine Telegraph. News mysteriously conveyed: during the civil war bogus reports from the front were said to be by the grape-vine telegraph: also clothes-line telegraph.

Grapple. The hand: also grappler: see Daddle.

Grapple-the-rails. Whisky: see Drinks (1783).

Grappling-irons (or hooks), 1. Handcuffs: see Darbies (1811). 2. The fingers: see Fork: also grapplers and grappling-hooks.

Grass (Royal Military Academy). 1. Vegetables: bunny-grub: Fr., *gargousses de la canonnière*. 2. Fresh mint (American). 3. Short for sparrow-grass (q.v.), asparagus. 4. A temporary newspaper hand; hence the proverb, A grass on news waits dead men's shoes (Australian printers). *Grass-hand*, a raw worker, green hand. As verb, to throw (or be thrown), bring (or be brought) to ground: hence, to knock down, defeat, kill. *To give grass*, to yield; *to go to grass*, (1) to abscond, disappear: also to hunt grass; (2) to fall sprawling, be ruined, die; (3) to waste away (as of limbs); *to hunt grass* (1) to decamp; (2) to field, to hunt leather (q.v.); (3) to fall, go to ground; hence, to be puzzled or bewildered; *to cut one's own grass*, to earn one's own living; *to be sent to grass*, to be rusticated, receive a travelling scholarship (q.v.); *go to grass!* be off! You be hanged; *to let the grass grow under one's feet*, to proceed or work leisurely: Fr., *limer*.

Grass-comber. A countryman shipped as a sailor.

Grasser. A fall.

Grasshopper. 1. A waiter in a tea-garden. 2. A policeman, copper (q.v.). 3. A thief (q.v.)

Grassing. Casual work away from a printing office.

Grassville. The country; cf. Daisyville.

Grass-widow. 1. An unmarried mother, a deserted mistress (1696). 2. A married woman temporarily separated from her husband. [The usually accepted derivation that grass is Fr., *grâce*, is doubtful. Hall (says J. C. Atkinson, in *Glossary of Cleveland Words*) gives as the definition of this word, An unmarried woman who has had a child; in Moor's *Suffolk Words and Phrases*, Grace-widow, A woman who has had a child for her cradle ere she has had a husband for her bed; and corresponding with this is the N. S. or Low Ger., *gras-wedewe*. Again, Sw. D., *gras-anka*, or *-enka* grass-widow, occurs in the same sense as with us: A low, dissolute, unmarried woman living by herself. The original meaning of the word seems to have been A woman whose husband is away, either travelling or living apart. The people of Belgium call a woman of this description *haeck-wedewe*, from *haecken*, to feel strong desire. . . . . It seems probable, therefore, from the etymology, taken in connection with the Clevel, signification, that our word may rather be from the Scand. source than from the German; only with a translation of the word *enka* into its English equivalent. Dan. D., *graes-enka*, is a female whose betrothed lover (fastman) is dead; nearly equivalent to which is German, *strohwittwe*, literally straw-widow. See *N. and Q.*, 6 S viii., 268, 414: x. 333, 436, 526; xi. 78, 178.] English synonyms: Californian widow, widow-bewitched, wife in water colours (1700).

Grass-widower. A man away from his wife.

Gravel. 1. To confound, puzzle, floor (q.v.). 2. To go against the grain.

Gravel-crusher. A soldier doing defaulter's drill.

Gravel-grinder. A drunkard: see Lushington.

Gravel-rash. The lacerations caused by a fall. *To have the gravel rash*, to be reeling drunk: see Screwed.

Gravesend-bus. A hearse.

Gravesend-sweetmeats. Shrimps.

Gravesend-twins. Solid lumps of sewage.

Grave-yard. The mouth: see Potato-trap. *To keep a private grave-yard*, to affect ferocity, bluster.

Gravy-eye. A derisive epithet: e.g. Well Old gravy-eye.

Grawler. A beggar: see Cadger.

Gray. 1. A coin showing either two heads or two tails, pony (q.v.) (1828). 2. See Grayback. 3. In pl., yawning, listlessness: cf. Blues.

Grayback. 1. A louse: also Scots Greys: Fr., *grenadier*: see Chates. 2. A Confederate soldier: from the colour of the uniform: see Blue-belly.

Gray-beard. 1. An old man: mostly in contempt (1593). 2. Originally a stoneware drinking jug; now a large earthenware jar for holding wine or spirits: with a bearded face in relief.

Gray-cloak. An alderman above the chair: his proper robe is a cloak furred with grey amis.

Gray-goose. A big field stone on the surface of the ground (1816).

Grayhound. 1. A fast Atlantic liner; one especially built for speed: also ocean grayhound. 2. (Cambridge University). A member of Clare College, a Clarian (obsolete).

Gray-mare. A wife; spec. one wearing the breeches (q.v.) (1546).

Gray-parson (or **Gray-coat parson**). A lay impropriator, or lessee of tithes (*Grose*).

Grease. 1. A bribe, palm-oil (or grease), boodle (q.v.): *greasing*, bribing. 2. Well-paid work, fat (q.v.): printers'. 3. Fawning, flattery. As verb, (1) to bribe, corrupt by presents, tip (q.v.): also, to grease the fist, hand, or palm: Fr., *coquer la boucanade* (1557). (2) To fawn, to flatter: formerly, to grease one's boots (1598). (3) To gull, cheat, do (q.v.). *To grease a fat sow*, to bribe a rich man (*Grose*); *to grease one's gills*, to make a good or luxurious meal.

Greased Lightning. An express train. *Like greased lightning*, very quick.

Greaser. 1. A Mexican; also a Spanish American. The Mexicans are called greasers from their greasy appearance, by the Western people (*Ruxton*): Greasers, Californian slang for a mixed race of Mexicans and Indians (*Bret Harte*). 2. In pl. (Royal Military Academy), fried potatoes, as distinguished from boilers, boiled potatoes. *To give one greaser* (Winchester College), to rub the back of the hand hard with the knuckles.

Grease-spot. The imaginary result of a passage at arms, physical or intellectual (1844).

Greasy-chin. A dinner (*Grose*).

Great Cry and Little Wool. See Cry.

Great Go (or **Greats**). The final examination for the B.A. degree at Cambridge: cf. Little-go: at Oxford, Greater.

Great Gun. 1. A person of distinction, a thing of importance. English synonyms: big bug, big dog of the tanyard, big dog with the brass collar, big gun, big head, big one, big (or great) pot, big wig, biggest toad in the puddle, cock of the walk, don, large potato, nob, rumbusticator, stunner, swell, swell-head, topper, top-sawyer. 2. A peculiar practice, trick of particular usefulness and importance, favourite wheeze (q.v.). *To blow great guns*, to blow a gale; also, *to blow great guns and small arms* (1839).

Great-house. See Big House.

Great-Joseph. An overcoat.

Great Scott! An exclamation of surprise—an apology for an oath: possibly a memory of the name of Gen. Winfield Scott, a presidential candidate whose dignity and style were such as to win him the nickname Fuss-and-Feathers.

Great Shakes. See Shakes.

Great Smoke. London.

Great Sun. An exclamation.

Great-unwashed. The lower classes, the rabble: also the unwashed: first used by Burke; popularised by Scott.

Great Whipper-in (The). Death, Old floorer (q.v.).

Grecian. 1. A roysterer, Greek (q.v.). 2. (Christ's Hospital). A senior boy. 3. An Irishman. Hence *Grecian accent*, a brogue.

Grecian-bend. An affected stoop in walking (1821): cf. Alexandra limp, Roman fall, Italian wriggle, Kangaroo droop.

Greed. Money: see Rhino.

Greedy-gut (or **guts**). A voracious eater, a glutton: as in the old (schoolboys') rhyme: Guy-hi, Greedy-gut, Eat all the pudding up: Fr., *un glafâtre* (1598).

Greek. 1. Slang, or Flash (q.v.); usually St. Giles' Greek (q.v.): cf. Cant, Gibberish, etc. 2. A card-sharper, cheat (1528). 3. An Irishman (1823). 4. A gambler; also a highwayman. *Merry Greek*, a roysterer, drunkard (*Cotgrave*) (1602).

Greek-fire. Bad whisky, rotgut (q.v.).

Greek Kalends. Never. *To defer to the Greek Kalends*, to put off *sine die*: the Greeks used no kalends in their reckoning of time (1649). English synonyms: in the reign of Queen Dick, when the devil is blind, when two Sundays come in a week, at Domesday, at Tib's eve, one of these odd-come-shortly's, when the ducks have eaten up the dirt, when pigs fly, in a month of Sundays, once in a blue moon.

Green. Rawness, simplicity. Generally in the phrase, Do you see any green in my eye? Do you take me for a fool? As adj., simple, inexperienced, gullible, unsalted (q.v.) (1596). As verb, to hoax, swindle: at Eton to green up: see Gammon.

To send to Dr. Green, to put out to grass (1811). *S'elp me greens!* (or *taturs!*) a veiled oath of an obscene origin. *Just for greens*, for no reason in particular.

Green-apron. A lay preacher: also as adj.

Green-back. 1. A frog. 2. One of Todhunter's series of mathematical text-books: bound in green cloth: cf. Blue-ruin. 3. The paper issue of the Treasury of the United States; first sent out in 1862 during the civil war, the backs are printed in green. Hence *green-backer*, an advocate for an unlimited issue of paper money.

Green-bag. A lawyer; robes and briefs were carried in a green bag; the colour is now blue, or, in cases of presentation from seniors to juniors, red (1696). English synonyms: black box, bramble (provincial), devil's own, gentlemen of the long robe, land-shark, limb of the law, mouth-piece, Philadelphia lawyer (q.v.), quitam, six and-eightpence, snipe, sublime rascal.

Green-bonnet. *To have* (or *wear*) *a green bonnet*, to fail in business, go bankrupt: a green cloth cap was once worn by bankrupts.

Green Cheese. See Cream Cheese and Moon.

Green Cloth. See Board of Green Cloth.

Green Dragoons. The Fifth Dragoon Guards; also known as the Green Horse: from their green facings.

Greener. A new, or raw hand; spec. an inexperienced workman introduced to fill the place of a striker.

Green-goods. Counterfeit greenbacks; hence *green-goods man* (or *operator*), a counterfeiter of greenbacks, snide-pitcher (q.v.).

Green-goose. 1. A cuckold. 2. A prostitute.

Green-gown. *To give a green gown*, to rough and tumble with a girl.

Green-head. A greenhorn: see Buffle (1696).

Greenhorn (Green-head, or Greenlander). A simpleton, fool, gull (q.v.); also a new hand: see Buffle. *To come from Greenland*, to be fresh to things, raw (q.v.); *Greenlander*, sometimes an Irishman (1753).

Greenhouse. An omnibus.

Green Howards. The Nineteenth Foot, now the Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment: from its facings and its Colonel's name (1738-48), and to distinguish it from the Third Foot, also commanded by a Col. Howard. Also Howard's Garbage.

Green Kingsman. A silk pocket-handkerchief: any pattern on a green ground.

Green Linnets. The 39th Foot, now the first battalion Dorsetshire Regiment: from the facings.

Greenly. Like a greenhorn, foolishly (1596).

Greenmans. 1. The fields, the country (1610). 2. In sing., a contractor who speculates with other people's money.

Greenness. Immaturity of judgment, inexperience, gullibility (1748).

Green-rag. See Greeny.

Green-river. *To send a man up Green-river*, to kill: from a once famous factory on Green River, where a favourite hunting knife was made.

Green-sickness. Chlorosis.

Green-turtle. *To live up to green-turtle*, to do, and give, one's best.

Greenwich Barber. A retailer of sand from the Greenwich pits: a pun upon shaving the banks (*Grose*).

Greenwich-goose. A pensioner of Greenwich Hospital (*Grose*).

Greeny. 1. The curtain: from the colour: also green-rag (1821). 2. A freshman (q.v.). 3. A simpleton, greenhorn (q.v.): see Buffle.

Greetin' Fu'. Drunk: literally crying drunk: see Screwed.

Greeze (Westminster School). A crowd, push (q.v.).

Gregorian. A kind of wig worn in the 17th century: after the inventor one Gregory, a barber in the Strand.

Gregorian-tree. The gallows: there was a sequence of three hangmen of the name: see Nubbing-cheat.

Gregorine. A louse; specifically, head vermin: see Chates.

Greshamite. A fellow of the Royal Society (1690).

Grey. See Gray, *passim*.

Griddle. To sing in the streets. Whence, *griddling*, street-singing; *griddler*, a street singer (1851).

Gridiron. 1. The United States

flag; the Stars and Stripes: also *Gridiron and Doughboys*; also speaking of the Eagle in conjunction with the flag, the *Goose and Gridiron*. 2. A County Court Summons: originally applied to writs of the Westminster Court, the arms of which resemble a gridiron (1859). 3. The bars on a cell window: Fr., *ler gaules de Schtard*. *The Gridiron*, the Grafton Club: the grill was a speciality. *On the gridiron*, troubled, harassed, in a bad way, on toast (q.v.). *The whole gridiron*: see Whole animal.

Grief. *To come to grief*, to come to ruin, meet with an accident, fail.

Griffin (or Griff). 1. A new-comer, raw hand, greenhorn (q.v.). Specific uses are (Anglo-Indian), a new arrival from Europe; (military), a young subaltern; (Anglo-Chinese), an unbroken horse. *Griffinage* (or *Griffinism*), the state of greenhornism (1859). 2. A woman of forbidding manners or appearance, a Gorgon: also a caretaker, chaperon, or sheep-dog (q.v.). [A reflection of the several griffins of ornithology and of heraldry: the former a feeder on birds, small mammals, and even children; the latter (as in Milton) a perfection of vigilance.] 3. A signal: e.g. *to tip the griffin*, to warn, give the office (q.v.), or *tip* (q.v.); *the straight griffin*, the straight tip. 4. In pl. the scraps and leavings from a contract feast, which are removed by the purveyor.

Griff-metoll. Sixpence, a tanner (q.v.): see Rhino (1754).

Grig. 1. An active, lively, and jocose person: as in the phrase Merry as a Grig (1611). 2. A farthing, a gigg (q.v.): see Rhino (1696). As verb, to vex, worry (1855).

Grim. A skeleton: also Grin. Whence *Old Mr. Grim*, death.

Grin. To strike on plates with knives and forks, beat with the feet, and shout at the top of the voice, in an effort to make the victim grin. *To grin in a glass case*, to be shown as an anatomical preparation: the bodies and skeletons of criminals were once preserved in glass cases at Surgeons' Hall (*Grose*).

Grinagog, the Cat's Uncle. A grinning simpleton (*Grose*).

Grind. 1. A walk, constitutional: e.g. to take a *grind*, or (University) to go on the Grandchester (or Gog Magog Hills) *grind*. 2. Daily routine, hard or distasteful work (1853). 3. Study, reading for an examination; also a plodding student, i.e. a *grinder*. 4. A demonstration: as (1) a 'public *grind*,' given to a class and free to all; and (2) a private *grind*, for which a student pays an individual teacher: in America, a quiz (q.v.). 5. (Oxford University) Athletic sports: also, a training run. *The grind* (Cambridge University), the ferry-boat at Chesterton. As verb, (1) to prepare for examination, study, read, teach, instruct, coach (q.v.), do a round of hard and distasteful work, apply oneself to daily routine; (2) to vex, put out. *To grind an axe*, see Axe. *To get a grind on one*, to play practical jokes, tell a story against one, annoy or vex. *To grind wind*, to work the treadwill: see Everlasting staircase.

Grinder. 1. A private tutor, Coach (q.v.): cf. Crammer (1812). 2. Usually in pl., the teeth. English synonyms: bones, chatterers, cogs, crashing cheats, dining-room furniture (or chairs), dinner-set, dominoes, front-rails, Hampstead Heath (rhyming), head-rails, ivories, park-palings (or railings), snagglers, tushes (or tusks), tomb-stones (1597). *To take a grinder*, to apply the left thumb to the nose, and revolve the right hand round it, as if to work a hand-organ or coffee-mill; also to take a sight (q.v.), to work the coffee mill (q.v.): a street retort on an attempt to impose on good faith or credulity (1836).

Grinding-house. The House of Correction: see Cage (1614).

Grinding-mill. The house of a tutor or coach (q.v.) where students are prepared for an examination.

Grind-off (or Grindo). A miller: from a character in *The Miller and his Men*.

Grindstone. A tutor, a coach (q.v.). *To bring* (*hold*, *put*, or *keep*) *one's nose to the grindstone*, to oppress, harass, punish, treat harshly. *To have one's nose kept to the grindstone*, to be held to a bargain, or task (1578). *To have the grindstone on one's back*, said of a man going to fetch the monthly nurse (*Grose*).

Grinning-stitches. Slovenly sewing, stitches wide apart, ladders (q.v.).

Grip (or Gripsack). A hand-bag,

satchell. *To lose one's grip*, to fail, lose one's control.

Gripe. 1. A miser, usurer: also *griper* or *gripe-fist* (q.v.). *Griping*, extortion. 2. In pl., the colic, stomach ache, collywobbles: see Jerry-go-nimble (1684).

Gripe-fist. A miser, grasping broker: also gripe-penny.

Grist. A large number or quantity: Swift uses grist, a supply; a provision. *To bring grist to the mill*, to bring profitable business, be a source of profit (1719).

Grit. 1. Character, pluck, spirit, sand (q.v.): also clear grit. *No grit*, lacking in stamina, wanting in courage (1825). 2. A member of the Liberal party (Canadian political).

Gritty. Plucky, courageous, resolute, full of character.

Grizzle. To fret; also *to grizzle one's guts*.

Grizzle-guts (Grizzle- or Glum-pot). A melancholy or ill-tempered person, sulkington (q.v.).

Groaner. A thief (q.v.) plying his trade at funerals or religious gatherings.

Groaning. The act of parturition: also adj., parturient, or appertaining to parturition: as in *groaning-malt* (Scots'), drink for a lying-in; *groaning pains*, the pangs of delivery; *groaning wife*, a woman ready to lie-in (1594).

Groats. A naval chaplain's monthly allowance. *To save one's groats*, to come off handsomely: at the University nine groats were formerly deposited in the hands of an academic officer by every person standing for a degree, which, if obtained with honour, were returned to him (*Grose*).

Grocery. 1. Small change (1728). 2. A drinking bar; also confectionery and groggery. 3. Sugar: a restricted use of a colloquialism.

Grog. Spirits and water, strong drink generally: till Admiral Vernon's time (1745) rum was served neat, but he ordered it to be diluted, and was therefore nicknamed Old Grog, in allusion to his grogram coat: a phrase that was presently adapted to the mixture he had introduced: *Groggy*, drunk: see Screwed. As verb, to dilute or adulterate with water. *To have grog on board* (or *to be grogged*), to be drunk: see Screwed.

Grog-blossom. A pimple caused by excessive drinking: also copper-nose and jolly-nose: Fr., *nez culotté*, and *nez de pompettes* (1811).

Grog-fight. A drinking party: cf. Tea-fight.

Groggery. A public bar, grog shop.

Groggy. 1. Under the influence of drink: see Screwed (1829). 2. (stable) Moving as with tender feet. 3. (pugilists') Unsteady from punishment and exhaustion: Fr., *locher* (1831).

Grogham. A horse, daisy-kicker (q.v.): now mostly in contempt: see Prad (*Grose*).

Grog-shop. The mouth: see Potato-trap (1843).

Grog-tub. A brandy bottle.

Groom. A croupier.

Groomed. See Well-groomed.

Groovy. A sardine. As adj., settled in habit, limited in mind.

Groper. 1. A blind man, Hoodman (q.v.) (1696). 2. A pocket (*Grose*). 3. A midwife, fingersmith (q.v.) (*Grose*).

Ground. *To suit down to the ground*, to be thoroughly becoming or acceptable. *To wipe* (or *mop*) *up the ground* (or *floor*) *with one*, to administer the soundest of thrashings, prove oneself absolutely superior to one's opponent. *To go* (or *get*) *well to the ground*, to defæcate, rear (q.v.): see Mrs. Jones (1608).

Grounder. A ball with a ground delivery, sneak, grub; and (in America) at base ball, a ball struck low, or flying near the ground.

Ground-floor. *To be let in on the ground-floor*, to share in a speculation on equal terms with the original promoters.

Ground-squirrel. A hog, grunter (*Lex. Bal.*).

Ground-sweat. *To have* (or *take*) *a ground-sweat*, to be buried (1696).

Grouser. 1. A grumbler rusty-guts (q.v.). 2. A rowing man, wet-bob (q.v.).

Groute (Marlborough and Cheltenham Colleges). To work or study hard, swot (q.v.).

Grouty. Crabbed, sulky.

Grove of the Evangelist. St. John's Wood; also Apostle's Grove, and the Baptist's Wood.

Grow. To be accorded the privilege of letting one's hair and beard grow: also to grow one's feathers.

Growler. A four-wheeled cab: cf. Sulky. English synonyms: bird-cage, blucher, bounder, fever-trap, flounder-and-dab (rhyming), four-wheeler, groping hutch, mab (an old hackney), rattler, rumbler. *To rush* (or *work*) *the growler*, to fetch beer (workman's).

Grown-man's-dose. A lot of liquor: also a long drink (q.v.): see Go.

Grown-up. An adult: also (undertakers') a grown (1864).

Grub. 1. Food. English synonyms: belly-cheer (or chere), belly-furniture, belly-timber, Kaffir's tightener (specifically, a full meal), chuck, corn, gorge-grease, manablins (broken victuals), mouth harness, mungarly, peck, prog, scoff (S. African), scran, stodge, tack, tommy (specifically bread), tuck, yam. Also, verbally, to bung the cask, to grease the gills, to have the run of one's teeth, to yam. 2. A short thick-set man, a dwarf: in contempt: see Hop-o'-my-Thumb. 3. A sloven, generally of elderly people. 4. A careful student, hard reader. 5. Roots and stumps: whatever is grubbed up. 6. A ball delivered along the ground, grounder (q.v.), daisy-cutter (q.v.): see Lob-sneak. As verb, (1) to take or supply with food (1725). Whence *grubbing*, eating. (2) To beg, ask alms, especially food. (3) To study, read hard, sweat (q.v.). *To ride grub*, to be sulky, crusty (q.v.), disagreeable (*Grose*). *To grub along*, to make one's way as best one can, rub along.

Grubbery. (1) An eating-house: also (2) a dining-room, and (3) the mouth.

Grubbing-crib. 1. An eating-house. *Grubbing-crib faker*, the landlord of a cheap cookshop: Fr., *nourrisseur*. English synonyms: grubbery, grubby (or grubbing-ken), grub-shop, guttle-shop, hash-house, mungarly casa, prog-shop, slap-bang shop, tuck-shop, waste-butt. 2. A workhouse: sometimes *Grubbiken*: see Spinniken.

Grubble. To feel for at random, or in the dark.

Grubby. Food: a diminutive of grub (q.v.). As adj., dirty, slovenly.

Grub-hunting. Begging for food.

Grub-shop (crib, trap, etc.). 1. The mouth; and 2. a grubbery (q.v.): see Potato-trap. 3. See Grubbing-crib in both senses.

Grub-stake. Food and other necessaries furnished to mining prospectors in return for a share in the finds. Hence, to grub-stake, to speculate after this fashion.

Grub Street. The world of cheap, mean, needy authors: originally a street near Moorfields, changed in 1830 to Milton Street (1696).

Gruel. 1. A beating, punishment (q.v.). Hence, *to get* (or *give*) *one's gruel*, to castigate, be well beaten, killed. In the prize ring, to knock a man out for good. *Gruelled*, floored; also *gruelling* (1815). 2. Coffee.

Grueller. A knock-down blow, settler (q.v.), a floorer (q.v.).

Grumble-guts. An inveterate croaker: also *grumble-gizzard.*

Grumbles. *To be all on the grumbles*, to be discontented, cross, on the snarley-yow (q.v.).

Grumbletonian. A pattern of discontent, one ever on the grumble. Grumbleton (during the reigns of the later Stuarts), an imaginary centre of discontent; hence, Grumbletonian, a nickname of the County party, distinguished from the Court, as being in opposition.] (1690).

Grumpy (or **Grumpish**). Surly, cross, angry.

Grundy. A short fat man, forty-guts (q.v.): see Mrs. Grundy.

Grunter. 1. A pig, grunting-cheat (q.v.): also pork (1656). 2. A sixpence: formerly (*Grose*) 1s.: see Rhino. 3. A policeman, trap (q.v.): pig (q.v.). 4. A constant grumbler, grumble-guts (q.v.).

Grunter's-gig. A smoked pig's chap (*Grose*).

Grunting-cheat. A pig (1567).

Grunting-peck. Pork or bacon.

Gruts. Tea.

G. T. T. Gone to Texas: absconded; moonshining gentry used to mark G. T. T. on the doors of their abandoned dwellings as a consolation for inquiring creditors: Fr., *aller en Belgique.*

Guage. See Gage.

Gubbins. Fish offal (1611).

Gudgeon. 1. A bait, an allurement: hence, *to gudgeon* (or *to swallow*) *a gudgeon*, to be extremely credulous or gullible (1598). 2. An easy dupe, buffle (q.v.) (1785).

Guerrilla. This name is applied by gamblers to fellows who skin suckers when and where they can, who do not like the professional gamblers, but try to beat them, sometimes inform on them, and tell the suckers that they have been cheated (*Matsell*).

Guff. Humbug, bluff, jabber: see Gammon.

Guffy. A soldier: see Mud-crusher.

Guiders. 1. Reins, ribbons (q.v.). 2. Sinews, leaders (q.v.).

Guinea. *A guinea to a gooseberry*, long odds.

Guinea-dropper. A sharper: spec. one who let drop counterfeit guineas in collusion with a Gold-finder (q.v.) (1712).

Guinea-hen. A courtezan (1602).

Guinea-pig. 1. A general reproach (1748). 2. Any one whose nominal fee for professional services is a guinea: as vets; special jurymen, etc. Now mainly restricted to clergymen acting as deputies, and (in contempt) to directors of public companies: hence *guinea-trade*, professional services (1821). 3. A midshipman.

Guise's Geese. The Sixth Foot, or Saucy Sixth, now the Royal Warwickshire Regiment: from its Colonel's name (1735-63).

Guiver. 1. Flattery; 2. Artfulness (q.v.). As adj., smart, fashionable, on it (q.v.). *Guiver lad*, a low-class dandy; also an artful member (q.v.). As verb, to humbug, fool about (q.v.), show off.

Gulf. 1. The throat, the maw: see Gutter-alley (1579). 2. (Cambridge Univ.). The bottom of a list of passes, with the names of those who only just succeed in getting their degree. 3. (Oxford Univ.). A man who, going in for honours, only gets a pass. As verb (Cambridge Univ.), to place in the gulf; *to be gulfed*, to be on such a list: men so placed were not eligible for the Classical Tripos: cf. Pluck and Plough.

Gulf-spin. A rascal, worthless fellow, beat (q.v.), shyster (q.v.).

Gull. 1. A ninny: see Buffle (1596). 2. A cheat, fraud, trick (1600). 3. (Oxford Univ.). A swindler, trickster. As verb, to cheat, dupe, victimise, take in (q.v.) in any fashion and to any purpose (1596). Hence, *gullible*, adj., easily duped.

Gullage. The act of trickery, the state of being gulled (1605).

Gull-catcher (Guller, Gull-sharper, etc.). A trickster, cheat (1602).

Gullery. Dupery, fraud, cheat's device.

Gullet. The throat: see Gutter-alley (1383).

Gull-finch. A simpleton, fool: see Buffle (1630).

Gull-groper. A gamester's money-lender (1609).

Gully. 1. The throat: see Gutter-alley. 2. A knife: see Chive (1633). As verb, to gull (q.v.), dupe, swindle.

Gully-fluff. Pocket-filth, beggar's velvet (q.v.): also flue (q.v.).

Gully-gut. A glutton: see Stodger (1598).

Gully-hole (or Gully). The throat: see Gutter-alley.

Gully-raker. (1) A cattle-whip; also (2) a cattle-thief.

Gulpin. A simpleton, gape-seed (q.v.): Fr., *gobemouche*, *éponge*: see Buffle.

Gulpy. Easily duped.

Gulsh. *To hold one's gulsh*, to hold one's tongue, keep quiet.

Gum. 1. Chatter, talk, jaw (q.v.), abuse (1751). 2. A trick, piece of dupery, sell (q.v.): also gummation. 3. A golosh, india-rubber overshoe: short for gum-shoes. As verb, to cheat, take in (q.v.), roast (q.v.), quiz: see Gammon. *Old Mother Gum*, an old woman: in derision. *By gum!* a mild oath. *Bless your* (or *his, her, its*, etc.) *gums*, a piece of banter: a facetious way of saying Bless your soul!

Gummagy. Snarling: of a scolding habit.

Gummed. Said of a ball close to the cushion.

Gummy. 1. A toothless person; i.e. with nothing but gums to show: generally, Old Gummy. 2. Medicine: also gummy-stuff. 3. A dullard, fool: see Buffle. As adj., puffed, swollen, clumsy (*Grose*). *To feel gummy*, to perspire.

Gump. A dolt: see Buffle (1825).

Gumption. Cleverness, understanding, nous (q.v.): also rum gumption (*Grose*).

Gumptious. Shrewd, intelligent, vain.

Gum-smasher (or **Tickler**). A dentist: snag-catcher (q.v.).

Gum-suck. To flatter, humbug, dupe: see Gammon.

Gum-sucker. 1. A native of Tasmania, who owes his nickname to the abundance of gum-trees in the Tasmanian forests: cf. Corn-stalk. 2. A fool: see Buffle.

Gum-tickler. 1. A drink: spec. drop of short, or a dram: see Go (1814). 2. See Gum-smasher.

Gum-tree. *To be up a gum-tree*, to be on one's last legs, at the end of one's rope: He has seen his last gum-tree, It is all up with him.

Gun. 1. A lie (*New Cant Dict.*, 1725). 2. A thief (q.v.); spec. a Magsman (q.v.) or street-artist: also gun-smith and gunner. *Gunning*, thieving. 3. A revolver: see Meat-in-the-pot. 4. A toddy glass. As verb, (1) to consider with attention. (2) To strive hard, make a violent effort: e.g. to gun a stock, to use every means to produce a break; when supplies are heavy and holders would be unable to resist. *In the gun*, drunk: see Screwed (1696). *Son of a gun*: see Son. *Sure as a gun*, quite certain, inevitable (1633).

Gundiguts. A fat man, forty-guts (q.v.) (1696).

Gunner's-daughter. *To kiss* (or *marry*) *the gunner's daughter*, to be flogged. *Gunner's daughter*, the gun to which boys were lashed for punishment (*Grose*).

Gunpowder. An old woman (1696).

Gunter. See Cocker.

Gup. Gossip, scandal. *To be a gup*, to be easy to take or steal.

Gurtsey. A fat man, podge (q.v.): see Forty-guts.

Gush. The expression of affected or extravagant sentiment. As verb, to overflow with extravagant or affected sentiment. Hence *gusher*, a practitioner of gush: also Gushing-tion; *gushing*, extravagant, affected or irrational in expression, demonstratively affectionate: also *gushingly*.

Gut. 1. The vice or habit of gluttony; the belly (as opposed to the groin). 2. In pl. the stomach and intestines (1609). 3. In pl. a fat man, forty-guts (q.v.): also *guts-and-garbage*. *More guts than brains*, a fool (1598). 4. Spirit, quality, a touch of force, energy, or fire: e.g. a picture, a book, an actor. *With guts*, a strong thing; *put your guts into it* (aquatic), row the very best you can. *He* (or *it*) *has no guts in him* (or *it*), he (or it) is a common rotter (q.v.). Hence, *gutsy*, adj., having guts, and *gutsiness*, subs., the condition of being gutsy (1738). As verb, (1) to plunder, or take out all or most of the contents (i.e. intestines) of a place or thing, drain, clean out: e.g. *to gut a house* (thieves'), to rifle it; *to gut an oyster*, to eat it; *to gut a book*, to empty it of interesting matter; *to gut a quart pot*, to drain at a draught. Whence, *gutted*, dead-broke (1696). (2) To eat hard, fast, and badly, wolf (q.v.). *To fret one's guts*, to worry; *to have plenty of guts but no bowels*, to be unfeeling, hard, merciless; *my great guts are ready to eat my little ones*, I am very hungry: also, *my guts begin to think my throat's cut*, *my guts curse my teeth*, and *my guts chime twelve* (*Grose*); *not fit to carry guts to a bear*, to be worthless, absolutely unmannerly, unfit for human food.

Gut-foundered. Exceedingly hungry (1696).

Gut-pudding. A sausage (*Nomenclator*).

Gut-puller. A poulterer, chicken-butcher (q.v.).

Gut-scraper. A fiddler: also catgut-scraper and tormentor of catgut: see Rosin-the-bow (1719).

Gutter. Porter (*Matsell*): probably a corruption of gatter (q.v.). As verb (Winchester College), to fall in the water flat on the stomach: Fr., *piquer un platventre*. *To lap the gutter*, to be in the last stage of intoxication: see Screwed. *Carry me out and leave me in the gutter*: see Carry me out.

Gutter-alley (or **lane**). 1. The throat. *All goes down gutter-lane*, He spends all on his stomach. English synonyms: Beer Street, common sewer, drain, funnel, Gin Lane, gulf-gullet, gully-hole, gutter, Holloway, Peck Alley, Red Lane, the Red Sea, Spew Alley, swallow, thrapple, throttle, whistle. 2. A urinal.

Gutter-blood. (1) A ragged rascal (1822). Also (2) a vulgarian; an upstart from the rabble.

Gutter-chaunter. A street singer.

Gutter-hotel. The open air: see Hedge-square.

Gutter-literature. See Blood-and-thunder, and Awful.

Gutter - master. A term of reproach (1607).

Gutter - prowler. A street thief (q.v.).

Gutter-snipe. 1. A street arab: also gutter-slush. 2. A poster for the kerb. 3. An outside broker who does business chiefly in the street; a kerbstone broker (q.v.): Fr., *loup-cervier.*

Guttie. 1. A gutta-percha ball. 2. A glutton, stodger (q.v.). 3. A forty-guts (q.v.).

Guttle. To eat greedily, Gormandize (q.v.). Also to drink: e.g. *to guttle a pint,* to take off, or do, a pint; *He's been guttling swipes,* he's been drinking beer. Hence *guttler,* a coarse or greedy eater, a sturdy pot-companion, gorger (q.v.): cf. Thackeray's *Book of Snobs* for Guttlebury Fair: see Guzzle (1672).

Guttle - shop. A pastry - cook's, tuck-shop (q.v.).

Guv. An abbreviation of governor (q.v.).

Guy. 1. A Fifth of November effigy, whence, 2. an ill-dressed person: as in the old street cry, Hollo, boys, there goes another guy! English synonyms: caution, Captain Queernabs, chivey, comic bird, ragamuffin, sight. 3. A dark lantern: obviously a reminiscence of the Gunpowder Plot. 4. A jaunt, expedition. As verb, (1) to quiz, chaff, roast (q.v.), Josh (q.v.); (2) to escape, hedge (q.v.), run away: also *to do a guy* (which also=to give a false name: see, Burk. (3) To spoil, muddle, disfigure, distort. (4) To damn, hiss, slate (q.v.), give the bird (q.v.).

Guzzle (or Guttle). 1. An insatiable eater or drinker. 2. A debauch. 3. Drink. As verb, to drink greedily, or to excess (1607).

Guzzle-guts. A glutton, a hard drinker (*Lex. Bal.,* 1811): see Guzzle.

Guzzler. A hard drinker, a coarse voracious feeder: see Guzzle (1760).

Guzzling. Eating or drinking to excess, also eating or drinking in a coarse unmannerly fashion (1696).

Guzzum. Chatter, noise.

G. Y. *All a G.Y.,* crooked, all on one side, all of a hugh.

Gybe. A written paper (1567). As verb, to whip, castigate: e.g. *gybed at the cart's tail,* whipped at the cart's tail (1696).

Gybing (also Gibery). Jeering (1696).

Gyger. See Jigger.

Gyp (Cambridge University). 1. A college servant: at Oxford, a scout (q.v.); at Dublin, a skip (q.v.) Etymology doubtful: according to *Sat. Rev.* an abbreviation of Gipsy Joe; according to Cambridge undergraduates from the Greek γύψ (Gups), a vulture; from the creature's rapacity.] (1794). 2. A thief (q.v.).

Gypsies of Science. The British Association (1846).

Gyrotwistive. Full of evasions and tricks, a portmanteau word.

Gyte. 1. A child: in contempt. 2. A first year's pupil in the Edinburgh High School.

Haberdasher. A dealer in small wares; specifically (*a*) a hatter, and (*b*), (humorously) a publican (i.e. a seller of tape, q.v.); now restricted to a retail draper (1599). *Haberdasher of pronouns,* a schoolmaster (1696).

Habit (Old University). College habit, College dress, called of old, Livery: the dress of the master, fellows, and scholars (*Gradus ad Cantabrigiam*).

Hab-nab (or Hob-nob). 1. At random, promiscuously, helter-skelter, ding-dong (1602). 2. By hook or by crook, by fair means or foul (1581).

Hack (or Hackney). (1) A person or thing let out for promiscuous use: e.g. a horse, harlot, literary drudge. Whence (2) a coach that plies for hire; (3) (stables') a horse for everyday use, as offered to one for a special purpose — hunting, racing, polo. (4) (Cambridge Univ.), 'Hacks; Hack preachers; the common exhibitioners at St. Mary's, employed in the service of defaulters and absentees.' Also *hackster*. As verb, to kick shins. *Hacking*, the practice of kicking shins at football.

Hackle. Pluck, spirit, bottom (q.v.). *To show hackle*, to show fight.

Hackslaver. To stammer, splutter, hesitate in speech.

Hackum (Captain Hackum, or Hackster). A bully, bravo: see Furioso (1657).

Had. See Have.

Haddock. 1. A purse. *Haddock of beans*, a purse of money (1598). 2. In pl., North of Scotland Ordinary Stock.

Hag (old: now recognised). (1) A witch. Whence (2) an ugly old woman; a she-monster. Also (3) a nightmare. At Charterhouse, a female of any description; at Winchester, a matron. Hence, *Hag-ridden*, troubled with nightmare; *hag born*, witch born; *hag-seed* (Shakespeare, 'Tempest'), spawned of a witch; *hag-faced*, foul-featured (1529). *Your hag-ship!* in contempt (of women).

Hag-finder. A witch finder (1637).

Hagged. Ugly, gaunt, hag-like (1696).

Haggisland. Scotland.

Haggle. To bargain keenly, stick at (or out for) trumpery points, debate small issues (1696).

Haggler. Formerly a travelling merchant, a pedlar: now (in London vegetable markets) a middleman (1662).

Hail. *To raise hail* (*Ned, Cain*, or *Hell*), to make a disturbance; to kick up a row. *To be hail fellow well met*, to be on very easy terms: also *at hail fellow* (1574). *To be hailed for the last time*, to die: see Aloft, Hop the twig.

Hair. *To go against the hair*, to go against the grain, contrary to nature (1589). *Both of a hair*, very much alike, two of a trade, two in a tale. *Not worth a hair*, utterly worthless: cf. Cent, Rap, Dump, etc. *To a hair*, exactly, to a nicety; *to fit to a hair*, to fit perfectly (1697). *To split hairs*, to cavil about trifles, quibble, be over-nice in argument (1693). *Suit of hair*: see Head of hair. *To raise* (or *lift*) *hair*, to scalp; hence, idiomatically, to defeat, kill; *to keep one's hair*, to escape a danger. *To comb one's hair*, to castigate, monkey (q.v.). *To hold* (or *keep*) *one's hair* (or *wool*) *on*, to keep one's temper, avoid excitement, take things calmly: also, *to keep one's shirt on*, or, pull down one's jacket (or vest): Fr., *être calme et inodore*. *A hair of the black bear* (or *b'ar*), a spice of the devil. *To make one's hair stand on end*, to astonish (1697). *A hair of the dog that bit one*, a pick-me-up after a debauch. [Apparently a memory of the superstition, which was and still is common, that, being bitten by a dog, one cannot do better than pluck a handful of hair from him, and lay it on the wound.] (1531).

Hair-butcher. A barber.

Hair-pin. An individual, male or female: e.g. *That's the sort of hair-pin I am*, that's my style.

Hairy. 1. Difficult. 2. Splendid, famous, conspicuous, uncommon.

Halbert. *To get the halbert*, to rise to sergeant's rank: (the weapon was carried by sergeants of foot). *To be brought to the halberts*, to be flogged; *to carry the halbert in one's face*, to show that one rose from the ranks (of officers in commission) (1785).

Half. *It's half past kissing time and time to kiss again*, the retort impudent (to females) when asked the time: a snatch from a ballad. [In Swift, *Polite Conversation*, an hour past hanging time.]

Half-a-crack (**jiffy**, or **tick**). Half a second.

Half-and-half. Equal quantities of ale and porter: cf. Four-half and Drinks (1824). As adj., half-drunk, half-on (q.v.): see Screwed. *Half-and-half-coves* (*men, boys*, etc.), cheap or linsey-woolsey dandies, half-bucks (q.v.), half-tigers (q.v.).

Half-an-eye. *To see with half an eye*, to discern readily, be quick at conclusions.

Half-baked (or Soft-baked). Half-witted, cracked, soft (q.v.), doughy (q.v.), half-rocked (q.v.): Fr., *n'avoir pas la tête bien cuite* (1825).

Half-breed. A nickname applied to certain New York Republicans who wavered in their allegiance during an election to the Senate in 1881 (*Norton*).

Half-cocked. Half-drunk: see Screwed. *To go off at half-cock* (or *half-cocked*), to fail through hasty and ill-considered endeavours.

Half-cracked. Lacking in intelligence.

Half-crown Word. A difficult or uncommon vocable, jaw-breaker (q.v.), crack-jaw: see Sleeveboard.

Half-crowner. A publication costing 2s. 6d.

Half-cut. Half-drunk: see Screwed.

Half-fly Flat. (1) A thief's jackal; (2) a man (or woman) hired to do rough of dirty work.

Half-grown Shad. A dolt: see Buffle.

Half Laugh and Purser's Grin. A sneer, a half-and-half meaning (*Clark Russell*).

Halflings. Betwixt and between: usually of a boy or girl just past childhood (1818).

Half-man. A landsman rated as A.B.

Half-marrow. 1. A faithless spouse; also a parcel husband or wife (1600). 2. An incompetent seaman.

Half-moon. A wig (1611).

Half-mourning. A black eye. *Full-mourning*, two black eyes, deep grief.

Half-nab (or **nap**). At a venture, unsight unseen, hit or miss (*Moore Carew*).

Half-on. Half-drunk.

Half-rocked. Half-witted, silly: a West Country saying is that all idiots are nursed bottom upwards.

Half-saved. Weak-minded, shallow-brained.

Half-screwed. More or less in liquor: see Screwed.

Half-seas Over. Loosely applied to various degrees of inebriety: formerly, half way on one's course, or towards attainment: see Screwed. [In its specific sense Gifford says, A corruption of the Dutch *op-zee zober*, over-sea beer, a strong heady beverage introduced into Holland from England. Up-zee Freese is Friezeland beer. The German *zauber* means strong beer, and bewitchment. Thus (1610) in Jonson, *Alchemist*, iv. 2. I do not like the dulness of your eye, It hath a heavy cast, 'tis upsee Dutch. Other nautical terms = drunk are Water-logged, Sprung, Slewed, With one's jib well bowsed, Three sheets in the wind, Channels under, etc.]

☛ **Half-slewed.** Parcel drunk: see Screwed.

Half-snacks (or **Half-snags**). Half-shares (1683).

Half-'un. Half a glass of spirits and water, half-a-go (q.v.).

Half-widow. A woman with a lazy and thriftless husband.

Halifax. *Go to Halifax*, be off! The full text is *Go to Hell, Hull, or Halifax*: cf. Bath, Blazes, Hull, Putney, etc. (1599).

Hall. 1. Specifically *The Hall*, Leadenhall Market: cf. Garden Lane, etc. 2. (Oxford Univ.). Dinner: which is taken in College hall. *To hall*, to dine. *Go and hire a hall*, a retort upon loquacious bores. *Hall by the sea*, the Examination Hall of the conjoined Board of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons: situate on the Embankment at the foot of the Waterloo Bridge. *Hall of delight*, a music hall.

Hallan-shaker (or **Hallen-shaker**). A vagabond, sturdy beggar (1503).

Halliballo. See Hulliballo.

Hallion (or **Hallyon**). (1) A rogue, a clod, a gentleman's servant out of livery; also (2) a shrew.

Halloo. *To halloo with the under dog*, to take the losing side.

Halo. *To work the halo racket*, to grumble, be dissatisfied: from the story of the saint in Heaven who got dissatisfied with his nimbus.

Haltersack. A gallows-bird: a general term of reproach and contempt (1598).

Halves (Winchester College): (pro. Hāves). Half-Wellington boots, which were strictly *non licet* (obs.).—*Notions*. *To go* (or *cry*) *halves*, to take (or claim) a half share or chance: in America at the halves (1831),

Ham. 1. (in. pl.) Trousers: also Ham-cases: see Kicks (1725). 2. A loafer: also Ham-fatter: also (*American Slang Dict.*), a tenth-rate actor or variety performer. *No ham and all hominy*, of indifferent quality, no great shakes, all work and no play, much cry and little wool.

Hamlet. A high constable, a chief of police (American).

Ham-match. A stand-up luncheon.

Hammer. 1. A hard-hitter:

especially a right-handed slogger, like **Hammer Lane**: also **Hammerer** and **Hammer-man**. 2. An unblushing lie. As verb, (1) to beat, punish (q.v.); (2) to bate, to drive down (prices, etc.); (3) to declare one a defaulter. *Down as a hammer*, (1) wide-awake, knowing (q.v.), fly (q.v.); (2) instant, peremptory, merciless: cf. Like a thousand of bricks: also *To be down on . . . like a hammer*. *At* (or *under*) *the hammer*, for sale at auction. *That's the hammer*, an expression of approval or assent. *To be hammers to one*, to know what one means. *To hammer out* (or *into*), to be at pains to deceive, to reiterate, to force to hear (1596).

Hammer-and-tongs. Violently, ding-dong (1781).

Hammer-headed. 1. Oafish, stupid (1600). 2. Hammer-shaped: i.e. long and narrow in the head.

Hammering. 1. A beating, excessive punishment (q.v.); 2. overcharging time-work (as corrections).

Hammering-trade. Pugilism.

Hammersmith. *To go to Hammersmith*, to get a sound drubbing.

Hampered (old: now recognised). Let or hindered, perplexed, entangled.

Hampstead Donkey. A louse: see **Chates**.

Hampstead-heath. The teeth: see **Grinders**.

Hampstead-heath Sailor. A landlubber (q.v.); freshwater sailor (q.v.): Fr., *marin d'eau douce* or *amiral Suisse* (Swiss admiral: Switzerland having no seaboard).

Hanced. In liquor: see Screwed. (1630).

Hand. 1. Properly a seaman: now a labourer, workman, agent (1658). 2. A light touch, sleight, knack, skill. **Phrases**: *A good* (*cool, neat, old, fine*, etc.) *hand*, an expert (1748). *A hand like a foot*, a large coarse hand; also vulgar or uneducated handwriting (1738). *A hand like a fist*, a hand full of trumps; also (in derision) a hand there's no playing; *to take a hand with the outside music*, to join in a free fight; *to get a hand on*, to suspect, be distrustful; *to get one's hand in*, to practise with a view to proficiency; *to bear a hand*, to make haste; *to stand one's hand*, to treat (q.v.), to stand Sam (q.v.); *to hand in one's chips* (or *checks*), see Cash one's checks; *to have* (or *get*) *the upper hand*, to have at an advantage, get to windward (q.v.); *to hand up* (Winchester College), to give information against, betray (*Notions*); *hands up!* an injunction to desist, stow it! (q.v.): also (police), a command to surrender, bail up (q.v.). Amongst other colloquial usages of hand are the following:— *At hand*, readily, hard by, *At any hand* (Shakespeare), on any account, *At no hand*, on no account, *For one's own hand*, for one's own purpose or interest, *From hand to hand*, from one to another, *in hand*, in a state of preparation, under consideration, or control; *Off one's hands*, finished, *On hand*, in possession, *In one's hands*, in one's care, *Out of hand*, completed, without hesitation, *To one's hand*, ready, *Hand over head*, negligently, rashly, *Hand to mouth*, improvident, *Hands off!* stand off, *Heavy on hand*, hard to manage, *Hot at hand*, difficult to manage, *Light in hand*, easy to manage, *To ask* (or *give*) *the hand of*, to ask, (or give) in marriage, *to be hand in glove with*, to be very intimate with, *To bear a hand*, to help, *To bear in* (or *on*) *hand*, to cheat or mock by false promises, *To change hands*, to change owners, *to come to hand*, to be received, *To get hand*, to gain influence, *To give a hand*, to applaud, *To give the hand to*, to be reconciled to, *To have a hand in*, to have a share in, *To have one's hands full*, to be fully occupied, *To hold hands with*, to vie with, to hold one's own, *To lay hands on*, to assault, to seize, *To lend a hand*, to help, *To make a hand*, to gain an advantage, *To put* (or *stretch*) *forth the hand against*, to use violence, *To set the hand to*, to undertake, *To strike hands*, to make a bargain, *To take by the hand*, to take under one's guidance, *To take in hand*, to attempt, *To wash one's hands of*, to disclaim responsibility, *A heavy hand*, severity, *A light hand*, gentleness, *A slack hand*, idleness, carelessness, *A strict hand*, severe discipline, *Clean hands*, freedom from guilt, *To stand one in hand*, to concern, to be of importance to, *Hand to fist*, *tête-a-tête*, hip to haunch, *Hand over hand*, easily, *To get a hand*, to be applauded.]

☞ **Hand-and-pocket Shop.** An eating house, where ready money is paid for what is called for.

Handbasket-portion. A woman

whose husband receives frequent presents from her father, or family, is said to have a hand-basket portion.

Handbinder. A wrist-chain: see Darbies.

Hander. A stroke on the hand with a cane, a palmie (q.v.).

Handicap. An arrangement in racing, etc., by which every competitor is, or is supposed to be, brought on an equality as far as regards his chance of winning by an adjustment of the weights to be carried, the distance to be run, etc.: extra weight or distance being imposed in proportion to their supposed merits on those held better than the others. [A handicap is framed in accordance with the known performances of the competitors, and, in horse-racing, with regard to the age and sex of the entries. The term is derived from the old game of *hand-in-cap*, or handicap.] (1660). As verb, (1) to adjust or proportion weights, starts, etc., in order to bring a number of competitors as nearly as possible to an equality; (2) to make even or level, equalise between; (3) to embarrass, burden, hinder, or impede in any way.

Handle. 1. The nose: see Conk. 2. A title: Fr., *queue*, as *Monsieur Sansqueue*, Mr. Nobody (1855). 3. Occasion, opportunity, means (1753). As verb, (1) to conceal cards in the palm of the hand or up the sleeves, palm (q.v.); (2) to use, make use of, manage (1606). *To handle the ribbons*, to drive (1857). *To fly off the handle*: see Fly.

Hand-me-downs (or **Hand-'em-downs**). Second-hand clothes. *Hand-me-down shop* (or *Never-too-late-to-mend-shop*), a repairing tailor's: Fr., *decrochez-moi-ça*. English synonyms: reach-me-downs, translations, wall-flowers.

Hand-out. Food to a tramp at the door.

Handpiece. A handkerchief, wipe (q.v.).

Handsaw. A street vendor of knives and razors, chive-fencer (q.v.).

Handsome. Sharp, severe, convenient, fit, neat, graceful, dextrous, skilful, ready, ample, generous, liberal, manageable, in good or proper style, and (in America) grand or beautiful (1553). *To do the handsome* (or *the handsome thing*), to behave extremely well, be civil; *handsome is that handsome does*, actions, not words, are the test of merit; also ironically of ill-favoured persons (1811); *handsome-bodied in the face*, jeering commendation of an ugly follow; *handsome as a last year's corpse*, a sarcastic compliment; *handsomely!* gently! a cry to signify smartly, but carefully. Also *handsomely over the bricks*, go cautiously.

Handsome-reward. A horse-whipping.

Handsprings. *To chuck handsprings*, to turn somersaults.

Handy. *Handy as a pocket in a shirt*, very convenient: also derisively.

Handy-blows (or **cuffs**). Fisticuffs; hence close quarters (1603).

Handy-man. A servant or workman doing odd jobs (1847).

Hang. 1. General drift, tendency or bent: as in *to get the hang of*, to get conversant with, to acquire the trick, or knack, or knowledge of (1847). 2. A little bit, a bit: see Care. As verb, (generally Hang it!), an exclamation of vexation, disgust, or disappointment; also, more forcibly, a euphemistic oath (1598). *To hang in*, to get to work, do one's best, wire in (q.v.); *to hang in the bellropes*, to defer marriage after being asked in church; *to hang on by one's eyelashes*, to persist at any cost, and in the teeth of any discouragement; *to hang on by the splashboard*, to catch a tram, omnibus, etc., when it is on the move; hence to succeed by the skin of one's teeth: Fr., *arcpincer l'omnibus*; *to hang around* (or *about*), to loiter, loaf, haunt; *to hang out*, to live, reside: also (subs.), a residence, lodging; and (American University) a feast, entertainment; *to hang out a shingle*, to start or carry on business; *to hang one's latchpan*, to be dejected, to pout: Fr., *faire son aquilin*; *to hang it out*, to skulk, mike (q.v.); *to hang up*, (1) to give credit, score (or chalk) up: said of a reckoning: also to put on the slate, or (American) on the ice (q.v.) (1725); (2) to bear in mind, remember; (3) to pawn; (4) to rob with violence on the street, hold up (q.v.): Fr., *la faire au père François*; (5) to be *in extremis*, know not which way to turn for relief: e.g. *a man hanging*, one to whom any change must be for the better; (6) to postpone, leave undecided; *to* *hang on*, (1) to sponge, and (2) to pursue an individual or a design (1601); *to hang off*, to fight shy off; *to hang up one's fiddle*, to retire, desist; *to hang up one's fiddle anywhere*, to adapt oneself to circumstances; *to hang up one's hat* (1) to die: see Hop the twig; (2) to make oneself permanently at home.

Hang-bluff. Snuff.

Hang-by. A hanger-on, parasite, companion (1598).

Hang-dog. A pitiful rascal, only fit for the rope for the hanging of superfluous curs: cf. Gallows-bird (1732). As adj., vile, suspicious in aspect, gallows-looking (q.v.).

Hang-gallows. A thievish, or villainous appearance (*Grose*).

Hanger. A side-arm — short sword or cutlass—hanging from the girdle. Also in pl., (1) ornamental loops from the girdle to suspend the sword and dagger (1596); (2) gloves, specifically gloves in the hand: (3) see Pothooks.

Hang-in-chains. A vile, desperate fellow (*Grose*).

Hanging. Fit for the halter.

Hanging-bee. A gathering of lynch-lawmongers, bent on the application of the rope.

Hangman. A jocular endearment (1600).

Hangman's-day. Monday, and (in America) Friday.

Hangman's-wages. Thirteen-pence-halfpenny. [The fee for an execution was a Scots mark: the value of which piece was settled, by a proclamation of James I., at 13½d.] (1602).

Hang-slang about. To abuse, slang (q.v.), Billingsgate (q.v.).

Hank. 1. A tie, hold, advantage, difficulty. *In a hank*, in trouble (1696). 2. A spell of rest, easy time. As verb, to worry, bait, drive from pillar to post.

Hanker. To desire eagerly, fret after, long or pine for: generally with after. Also, *hankering*, an importunate and irritating longing (1696).

Hankin. The trick of putting off bad work for good: cf. To play hanky-panky.

Hanktelo. A silly fellow, a mere Codshead (*B. E.*),

Hanky-panky. (1) Legerdemain; whence (2) trickery, underhand (q.v.) work, cheating, any manner of double-dealing or intrigue. *Hanky-panky business*, conjuring; *hanky-panky work* (or *tricks*), double-dealing. A *bit of hanky-panky*, a trick; a piece of knavery (1841).

Hanky-panky-bloke. A conjurer.

Hanky-spanky. Dashing, nobby (q.v.): specifically of well-cut clothes.

Hannah. *That's the man as married Hannah*, That's the thing: used of a thing well begun and well ended; or as an expressive of certainty. Varied sometimes by *That's what's the matter with Hannah.*

Hansel (or **Handsel**). The first money taken in the morning, lucky money. Hence earnest money, first-fruits, etc. *Hansel-Monday*, the first Monday in the new year, when presents were received by children and servants (1587). As verb, (1) to give handsel to; also (2) to use for the first time.

Hanseller. A street vendor, cheap Jack.

Hans-en-Kelder. A child in the womb: literally Jack-in-the-cellar (q.v.) (1647).

Hansom. A chop.

Hap-harlot. A coarse stuff to make rugs or coverlets with, a rug: cf. Wrap-rascal, an overcoat (1577).

Ha'porth o' Coppers. Habeas Corpus.

Ha'porth of Liveliness. 1. Music. 2. A loitering Lawrence, slowcoach (q.v.).

Happify. To please (1612).

Happy. Slightly drunk, elevated (q.v.): see Screwed.

Happy-despatch. Death, specifically a sudden or violent end.

Happy-dosser. See Dosser.

Happy Eliza. A female Salvationist: as in the *Broadside Ballad* (1887-8), They call me Happy Eliza, and I'm Converted Jane: We've been two hot 'uns in our time.

Happy-family. Assemblages of animals of diverse habits and propensities living amicably, or at least quietly, in one cage.

Happy-go-lucky. Careless, thoughtless, improvident.

Happy Hunting-grounds. 1. The future state; glory (q.v.): from the North-American Indian's conception of heaven. 2. A favourable place for work or play.

Happy-land. The after life, glory (q.v.).

Happy-returns. Vomiting.

Hard. 1. Hard labour. 2. See Hard-shell. 3. Third-class: as opposed to soft (q.v.). Thus: Do you go hard or soft? Do you go Third or First? As adj., (1) applied to metal of all kinds: e.g. hard (cole or stuff), silver or gold as compared to cheques or soft (q.v.) (1825). (2) sour or souring, as in hard-cider; (3) hard drinks (American), intoxicating liquors, as wine, ale, etc., while lemonade, soda-water, ginger-beer, etc., are soft (1696). Phrases: *Hard as a bone* (*nails*, etc.), very hard, austere, unyielding; *hard at it*, very busy, in the thick of a piece of work; *to die hard*, to sell one's life dearly; e.g. The Die-hards (q.v.), the 59th Regiment, so called from their gallantry at Albuera; also in many combinations, generally with an unpleasant intention, thus—*Hard-fisted* (or *handed*), very niggardly; *hard-bit* (or *hard-mouthful*), an unpleasant experience; *hard-driven* (or *hard-run*), sore bested; *hard-faced* (*favoured*, or *featured*), grim, shrewish, or bony; *hard-headed* (or *hard-witted*), shrewd and intelligent, but unimaginative and unsympathetic; *hard-hearted*, incapable of pity; *hard-lipped*, obstinate, dour; *hard-master*, a nigger-driver; *hard-nut*, a dangerous antagonist; *hard-on*, pitiless in severity; *hard-riding*, selfish and reckless equestration; *hard-service*, the worst kind of employment; *hard-wrought*, overworked, etc., etc.

Hard-a-weather. Tough, weatherproof.

Hard-bake. A sweetmeat made of boiled brown sugar or treacle with blanched almonds.

Hard-baked. 1. Constipated. 2. Stern, unflinching, strong.

Hard-bargain (or Case). 1. A lazy fellow, bad-egg (q.v.), skulker. *One of the Queen's hard bargains*, a bad soldier. 2. A defaulting debtor. 3. A brutal mate or officer: also Hard-horse.

Hard-bitten. Resolute, Game (q.v.), desperate (1815).

Hard-cheese. Hard lines, bad luck: specifically at billiards.

Hard-cole. See Hard and Cole.

Hard-doings. (1) Rough fare; and (2) hard work (1848).

Hard-drinking. Drinking to excess (1696).

Hard-head. A man of good parts, physical, intellectual, or moral (1824).

Hard-hit. *To be hard hit*, (1) to have experienced a heavy loss, as over a race, at cards, etc.; (2) to be deeply in love, completely gone on (q.v.).

Hard-lines. Hardship, difficulty, an unfortunate result or occurrence.

Hard-mouthed. Difficult to deal with, wilful, obstinate: also coarse in speech (1686).

Hard-neck. Brazen impudence, monumental cheek (q.v.).

Hard-pan. The lowest point, bed-rock (q.v.). *To get down to hard pan*, to buckle to, get to business.

Hard-puncher. The fur cap as worn by the London rough: formerly worn by men in training: a modification of the Scotch cap with a peak. [From the nickname of a noted pugilist.]

Hard-pushed. In difficulties, hard-up (q.v.).

Hard put to. In a difficulty—monetary or other: e.g. He'd be hard put to it to find a sovereign (or a word, or an excuse), It would take him all his time, etc.

Hard-row. See Row.

Hard-run. In want of money, hard-up (q.v.).

Hard-shell. 1. A member of an extreme section of Baptists holding very strict and rigid views. [The Soft-shells are of more liberal mind.] Also Hards and Softs (1848). 2. (political American). A division of the Democratic Party in 1846-48, when the Hunkers (q.v.) received the name of Hards and their opponents, the Barnburners (q.v.), that of Softs (1847). As adj., extremely orthodox, unyielding, hide-bound.

Hard-stuff. 1. Money. 2. Intoxicating liquors: see Hard (adj., sense 2).

Hard-tack. 1. Ship's biscuits: specifically ordinary sea-fare as distinguished from food ashore, or soft-tommy (q.v.) (1841). 2. Coarse or insufficient fare.

Hard-up. 1. A collector of cigar-ends, a topper-hunter (q.v.). The refuse, untwisted and chopped up, is sold to the very poor: sometimes Hard-cut: Fr., *mégottier*. 2. A poor man, a stony-broke (q.v.) (1857).

As adv. phr., 1. very badly in want of money, in urgent need of anything: also Hard-run and Hard-pushed (1809). English synonyms: many of the synonyms for floored apply equally to hard-up; others are,—at low-water-mark, cracked up, dead-broke, down on one's luck, fast, in Queer Street, in the last of pea time, in the last run of shad, low down, low in the lay, oofless, out of favour with the oof-bird, pebble-beached, seedy, short, sold-up, stony-broke, strapped, stuck, stumped, suffering from an attack of the week's (or month's) end, tight, on one's uppers, under a cloud, on one's beam ends. 2. Intoxicated: see Screwed. 3. (Winchester College). Out of countenance, exhausted (in swimming).

Hard-upness (or **Hard-uppishness**). Poverty, a condition of impoverishment.

Hardware (or **Hard**). Counterfeit coin (*Matsell*).

Hardware-bloke. A native of Birmingham, a Brum (q.v.).

Hardy-annual. A bill that is brought before Parliament every year, but never passed into law; hence (journalistic), any stock subject.

Hare. To dodge, double, bewilder (1719). *To hare it*, to retrace one's steps, double back: from the way of a hare with the hounds; *to make a hare of*, to make ridiculous, expose the ignorance of any person (1830); *to swallow a hare*, to get very drunk: see Screwed (1696); *to hold with the hare and hunt with the hounds*, to play a double game, keep on good terms with two conflicting parties (1696). *To kiss the hare's foot*, to be late, be a day after the fair, kiss the post.

Hare-brained (or **Hair-brained**). Reckless, flighty, impudent, skittish: also, substantively, *hare-brain*, a hare-brained person (1534).

Hared. Hurried.

Hare-sleep. Sham slumber, foxes' sleep (q.v.) (1696).

Harking. Whispering on one side to borrow money (*B. E.*).

Harlequin. 1. A sovereign: see Rhino. 2. (Winchester College), the wooden nucleus of a red indiarubber ball. 3. A patchwork quilt. *Harlequin china*, sets composed of several patterns and makes.

Harlotry. A wanton (1529). As adj., disreputable.

Harman-beck (or **Harman**). An officer of justice: see Beak (1567).

Harmans. The stocks: the suffix mans is common—lightmans, darkmans, roughmans, etc. (1567).

Harness. *In harness*, in business, at work: as, *to die in harness*, to die at one's post; *to get back into harness*, to resume work after a holiday.

Harp. Harp is also the Irish expression for woman or tail, used in tossing up in Ireland, from Hibernia being represented with a harp, on the reverse of the copper coins of that country, for which reason it is *in hoisting the copper*, i.e. tossing up, sometimes likewise called music (*Grose*). *To harp on*, to dwell persistently and at any cost upon a subject (1596).

Harper. A brass coin current in Ireland, *temp.* Elizabeth, value one penny: from the Irish Harp figured upon it. *Have among you my blind harpers*, an expression used in throwing or shooting at random among a crowd (*Grose*).

Harridan. Orig. a foundered wanton: hence, a miserable, scraggy, worn-out woman (*Grose*).

Harrington. A brass farthing. [Lord Harrington obtained a patent of manufacture under James I.] (1616).

Harry. 1. A countryman, clown, Joskin. 2. See 'Arry. *Old Harry*, the devil (1693). *Harry of the West*, Henry Clay. *To play old Harry*, to annoy, ruin, play the devil. *Tom, Dick, and Harry*, generic for any and everybody, the mob.

Harry-bluff. Snuff.

Harry-common. A general wencher (1675).

Harry-soph (Cambridge Univ.: obsolete). 'A Harry or errant Soph, I understand to be either a person, four-and-twenty years of age, and of an infirm state of health, who is permitted to dine with the fellows, and to wear a plain, black, full-sleeved gown; or, else, he is one who, having kept all the terms by statute required previous to his law-act, is *hoc ipso facto* entitled to wear the same garment, and, thenceforth, ranks as bachelor, by courtesy' (*Gent. Mag.*).

Harum-scarum. 1. Giddy, careless, wild, a thoughtless or reckless fellow (1740). 2. Four horses driven in a line, suicide (q.v.).

Has-been. Anything antiquated: spec. in commendation, as the good old Has-beens: cf. Never was.

Hash. 1. A mess; spec. in the phrase To make a hash of: sixes-and sevens (1747). 2. Clandestine preparation for supper after hours (American cadets). 3. A sloven, blockhead (*Burns*). As verb, (1) to spoil, jumble, cook up and serve again; (2) to vomit: also to flash the hash (q.v.). *To go back on one's hash*, to turn, succumb, weaken (q.v.)

Hash - house. A cheap eating-house, grubbing-crib (q.v.).

Haslar-hag. A nurse at Haslar Hospital.

Hastings. *To be none of the Hastings sort*, to be slow, deliberate, slothful (1696).

Hasty. Rash, passionate, quick to move (1696: now recognised). *Hasty G.*, hasty generalisation (Cambridge).

Hasty pudding. 1. A bastard. 2. A muddy road, a quag (1811).

Hat (Cambridge Univ.). 1. A gentleman commoner (who is permitted to wear a hat instead of the regulation mortar-board): also Gold-Hatband (1628). 2. A prostitute of long standing. Phrases: *To eat one's hat* (or *head*), generally in phrase, *I'll eat my hat*, used in strong emphasis; *to get a hat*: see Hat-trick; *to get into the hat*, to get into trouble; *to have a brick in one's hat*, to be top-heavy with drink: see Screwed; *to hang up one's hat*: see Hang; *to pass* (or *send*) *round the hat*, to make a collection; *to talk through one's hat*, to rag, huff, bluster; *all round my hat*, a derisive retort from a broadside ballad, popular *c.* 1830: All round my hat I wear a green willow, All round my hat for a twelvemonth and a day, And if anyone should ask you the reason why I wear it, Tell them my true love is gone far away; sung to a tune adapted from a number in *Zampa*: also, all over, completely, generally; *shoot that hat!* a derisive retort: also *I'll have your hat! well, you can take my hat!* Well, that beats me, i.e. that is past belief; *what a shocking bad hat*, said to have originated with a candidate for parliamentary honours, who made the remark to his poorer constituents and promised them new head-gear.

Hatch. *To be under hatches*, to be in a state of trouble, poverty, or depression: also dead (1606).

Hatchet. 1. An ill-favoured woman. 2. A bribe received by Customs officers in New York for permitting imported dutiable goods to remain on the wharf when they ought to go to the general store-house. *To bury* (or *dig up*) *the hatchet*: see Bury. *To throw* (or *sling*) *the hatchet*, (1) to tell lies, yarn, draw the long bow (q.v.); hence *hatchet flinging* (or *throwing*), lying or yarning (1789). To sulk.

Hatchet - faced. Hard - favoured, ugly (*B. E.*).

Hatch, Match, and Dispatch Column. The births, marriages, and deaths announcements: also Cradle, Altar, and Tomb Column.

Hatchway. The mouth: see Potato-trap.

Hate - out. To boycott, send to Coventry.

Hatfield. A drink: the chief ingredients are gin and ginger-beer.

Hatful. A large quantity, heap (1859).

Hatpeg. The head: see Crumpet.

Hatter. A gold - digger working alone. *Who's your hatter?* a catch-cry long out of vogue. *Mad as a hatter*, very mad.

Hat-trick. Taking three wickets with three consecutive balls: which feat is held to entitle the bowler to a new hat at the cost of the club.

Hat-work. Hack work, such stuff as may be turned out by the yard without reference to quality.

Haulable (University). Used of a girl whose society authorities deem undesirable for the men: e.g. *she's haulable*, a man caught with her will be proctorised.

Haul-bowline. A seaman.

Haul-devil. A clergyman, devil-dodger, sky-pilot. *Haul devil, pull baker*: see Devil.

Haut-boy (or **Ho - boy**). A night scavenger, jakesman, gold - finder (q.v.).

Have. 1. A swindle, take-in (q.v.), do (q.v.): see Sell. 2. In pl., The moneyed classes, as opposed to the *have-nots*, their antipodes. 3. (in pl.) (Winchester College). Half-boots: pronounced Hāves. *Is that a catch or a have?* a formula of acknowledgment that the speaker has been bad: if the person addressed be unwise enough to answer with a definition, the dovetail is a vulgar retort. As verb, to cheat, take-in, do. *To have* (or *take*) *it out of one*, to punish, retaliate, extort a *quid pro quo*, give tit for tat; *to have it out with one*, to speak freely in reproof, complete an explanation, settle a dispute with either words or blows; *to have on*, to secure a person's interest, attention, sympathy: generally with a view to deceiving him (or her); *to have towards* (or *with* or *at*), (1) to pledge in drinking, toast (1637); (2) to agree with; *to have on toast*, (1) to take in; (2) worst in argument; *to have on the raws*, to teaze, touch to the quick; *to let one have it*, to punish severely; *to have up*, to bring before the authorities; to summons (q.v.).

Havercake-lads. The Thirty-third Foot, now the first battalion of the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment). [From the circumstance that its recruiting sergeants always preceded their party with an oatcake on their swords.]

Havey-cavey. Uncertain, doubtful, shilly-shally (1811).

Havil. A sheep, wool-bird (1811).

Havock. Devastation, waste (*B. E.*).

Hawcubite. A roysterer, street bully. [After the Restoration there was a succession of these disturbers of the peace: first came the Muns, then followed the Tityre Tus, the Hectors, the Scourers, the Nickers, the Hawcubites, and after them the Mohawks (q.v.).]

Hawk. 1. A card-sharper, rook (q.v.) (1696). 2. A bailiff, constable: see Beak. As verb, To spit up the thick phlegm, called *oysters*, whence it is wit upon record to ask the person so doing whether he has a license, a punning allusion to the act of hawkers and pedlars (*Grose*). *Ware hawk!* A warning: look sharp! (1529).

Hawk-a-mouthed. Foul-mouthed.

Hawker. A pedlar: now recognised (1696).

Hawk-eye state. Iowa: after the famous Indian chief.

Hawse. *To fall athwart one's hawse*, to obstruct, fall out with, counter and check.

Hawse-holes. *To come* (or *creep*) *in through the hawse-holes*, to enter the service at the lowest grade, rise from the forecastle (1830).

Hay. *To make hay*, to throw into confusion, turn topsy-turvy, knock to pieces in argument or single combat: also to kick up a row. *To dance the hay*, to make good use of one's time.

Hay-bag. A woman: Fr., *paillaisse*.

Hay-band. A common cigar, a weed.

Haymarket-hector. A prostitute's bully.

Haymarket-ware. A common prostitute.

Hay-pitcher (or **Hay-seed**). A countryman: cf. Gape-seed (1851).

Hays! An injunction to be gone, Git (q.v.).

Haze. Bewilderment, confusion, fog (q.v.). As verb, (1) to play tricks or practical jokes, frolic: hence *Hazing*: also to mystify, fog (q.v.), (2) To harass with overwork or paltry orders: also to find fault (1840).

Hazel-geld. To beat any one with a hazel-stick or plant (*B. E.*).

Hazy. Stupid with drink, mixed (q.v.): see Screwed (1824).

He (Charterhouse). A cake. A *young he*, a small cake: see She.

Head. 1. A man-of-war's privy. 2. The obverse of a coin or medal. *Heads or tails?* Guess whether the coin spun will come down with head uppermost or not (the side not bearing the sovereign's head has various devices: Britannia, George and the Dragon, a harp, the Royal arms, an inscription, etc.—all included in the word tail, i.e. the reverse of head. The Romans said Heads or ships?) (1680). 3. An arrangement of the hair, a coiffure (1773). Phrases: *To have at one's head*, to cuckold (1640); *to take one in the head*, to come into one's mind (1609); *to do on head*, to act rashly (1559); *to do on one's head*, to do easily and with joy; *to fly at the head*, to attack, go for (q.v.) (1614); *to eat one's head*: see Hat; *to eat one's* (or *it's*) *head off*, to cost more than the worth in keep (1703); *to run on head*, to incite (1556); *to give one's head* (or *one's beard*) *for washing*, to yield tamely and without resistance: Fr., *laver la tête*, to reprimand, admonish with point, energy, and force (1615); *to put a head* (or *new head*) *on one*, (1) to change a man's aspect by punching his head: hence, to get the better of one's opponent, annihilate: also to put a new face on; (2) to froth malt liquors: e.g. Put a head on it, Miss, addressed to the barmaid, is a request to work the engine briskly, and make the liquor take on a cauliflower (q.v.); *heads I win, tails you lose*, a gage of certainty—In no case can I fail: I hold all the trumps; *to get the head into chancery*, to get the other fighter's head under one arm and hold it there: hence Chancery, a position of helplessness (1819); (2) hence to get, or be got, into a posture of absolute helplessness; *to knock on the head*, to kill, destroy, put an end to; *to get* (or *put*) *the head in a bag*: see Bag; *to get* (or *have*) *a swelling in the* (or *a big-*) *head*, to be or become conceited, put on airs; *to hit the right nail on the head*, to speak or act with precision and directness, do the right thing: the colloquialism is common to most languages: the French say, *Vous avez frappé au but* (You have hit the mark); the Italians, *Havete dato in brocca* (You have hit the pitcher: alluding to a game where a pitcher stood in the place of Aunt Sally, q.v.): the Latins, *Rem acu tetigisti*, (You have touched the thing with a needle: referring to the custom of probing sores) (1719); *to argue* (or *talk*) *one's head off*, to be extremely disputative or loquacious, to be all jaw (q.v.); *to bundle out head* (or *neck*) *and heels*, to eject with violence; *to have no head*, (1) to lack ballast, be crack-brained: hence, *to have a head on*, to be cute, or alert, have sand (q.v.); (2) to be flat (of malt-liquors); *to have a head*, to experience the after-effects of heavy drinking (cf. Mouth); also *to have a head-ache*: see Screwed; *to give one his head*, to give one full and free play, let go; *to have maggots in the head*, to be crotchety, whimsical, freakish, have a bee in one's bonnet; *to hurt in the head*, to cuckold, cornute; *to lie heads and tails*, to sleep packed sardine fashion, i.e. heads to head-rail and foot-rail alternately; *over head and ears* (in work, love, debt, etc.) completely engrossed in, infatuated with, to the fullest extent (1589); *without head or tail*, incoherent, neither one thing nor the other: e.g. I can't make head or tail of it, I cannot make it out (1728); *to have a head like a sieve*, to be unreliable, forgetful; *heads out!* a warning cry on the approach of a master; *mutton-head* (or *headed*): see Mutton-head; *fat* (or *soft*) *in the head*, stupid; *off one's head*, stupid, crazy; *shut your head*, hold your jaw.

Head-beetler. (1) A bully; and (2) a foreman, ganger (q.v.).

Head-bloke. See Head-screw.

Head-bully (or **cully**). *Head bully of the pass or passage bank*, 'The Top Tilter of the Gang, throughout the whole Army, who Demands and receives Contribution from all the Pass Banks in the Army' (*B. E.* and *Grose*).

Head-cook and bottle-washer. 1. A general servant: in contempt. 2. One in authority, boss (q.v.).

Head-clerk. *Head clerk of doxology works*, a parson.

Header. A notability, big-wig (q.v.). *To take a header*, (1) to plunge, or fall, headforemost, into water: and (theatrical), to take an apparently dangerous leap in sensational drama. Hence (2), to go straight and directly for one's object (1856).

Head-fruit. Horns (1694).

Head-guard. A hat: specifically a billy-cock.

Heading. A pillow, any rest for the head. *Heading 'em*, tossing coins in gambling: in allusion to the head on the coin.

Head-marked. Horned. *To know by head-mark*, to know a cuckold by his horns.

Head-rails. The teeth: see Grinders (*Grose*).

Head-robber. 1. A plagiarist. 2. A butler.

Head-screw (or **bloke**). A chief warder.

Heady. 1. Heady, strong liquors that immediately fly up into the noddle, and so quickly make drunk (*B. E.*). 2. Restive, full of arrogance and airs, opinionated.

Heady-whop. A person with a very large head.

Healtheries. The Health Exhibition, held at South Kensington: others of the series were nicknamed The Fisheries, The Colinderies, The Forestries, etc.

Heap. A large number, lots, a great deal (1371). As adv., a great deal. *All of a heap*, **astonished, con-**

fused, taken aback, flabbergast (q.v.); and (pugilists') doubled up (1593).

Heaped. Hard put to it, floored (q.v.).

Hear. *To hear a bird sing,* to receive private communication: in modern parlance, A little bird told me so (1598).

Hearing. A scolding, lecture, wigging.

Hearing-cheats. The ears (1567). English synonyms: drums, flappers, leathers, lugs (Scots'), tapes, wattles.

Heart. *Next the heart,* fasting (1592). Other colloquial usages are *at heart,* in reality, truly, at bottom; *for one's heart,* for one's life; *in one's heart of hearts,* in the innermost recesses of oneself; *to break the heart of,* (*a*) to cause great grief, or to kill by grief, and (*b*) to bring nearly to completion; *to find in one's heart,* to be willing; *to get* or *learn by heart,* to commit to memory; *to have at heart,* to feel strongly about; *to have in the heart,* to design or to intend; *to lay* or *take to heart,* to be concerned or anxious about; *to set the heart at rest,* to tranquillize; *to set the heart on,* to be desirous of, to be fond of; *to take heart of grace,* to pluck up courage.

Heartbreaker. A pendant curl, love lock (q.v.): Fr., *crèvecœur* (1663).

Heartburn. A bad cigar.

Heartsease. 1. A twenty-shilling piece (*B. E.*). 2. Gin: see Drinks (*B. E.*).

Hearty. Drink, drunk: see Drinks and Screwed. *My hearty,* a familiar address.

Hearty-choke. *To have a hearty choke and caper sauce for breakfast,* to be hanged: cf. Vegetable breakfast, and see Ladder (*Grose*).

Heat. A bout, turn, trial: by this means the field is gradually reduced: cf. Handicap (1681).

Heathen-philosopher. 'A sorry poor tatter'd Fellow, whose Breech may be seen through his pocket-holes' (*B. E.*).

Heave. 1. An attempt to deceive or cajole; a *dead-heave,* a flagrant attempt. 2. In pl., an attack of indigestion or vomiting. As verb, (1) to vomit; (2) to rob: old English; has survived, in Shropshire, as a provincialism: e.g. *the heler* (*hider*) *is as bad as the heaver,* the receiver is as bad as the thief (1567). *To heave on* (or *ahead*), to make haste, press forward.

Heaven. See Wheelbarrow.

Heavenly-collar (or **lappel**). A collar or lappel that turns the wrong way.

Heaver. 1. The bosom, panter (q.v.) (1696). 2. A person in love: i.e. sighing, or making play with the heaver. 3. A thief: cf. Heave.

Heavy. See Heavy wet. As adj., large: e.g. a heavy amount, a considerable sum of money. *To come* (or *do*) *the heavy,* to affect a vastly superior position, put on airs or frills (q.v.). *The Heavies,* the regiments of Household cavalry, 4th and 5th Dragoon Guards, and 1st and 2nd Dragoons: from their equipment and weight.

Heavy-Cavalry (or **Dragoons**). Bugs: cf. Light infantry, fleas: also Heavy horsemen, the Heavy troop, and the Heavies.

Heavy-grog. Hard work.

Heavy-grubber. 1. A hearty eater, glutton: cf. Stodger.

Heavy-plodder. A stockbroker.

Heavy- (or **Howling-**) **swell.** A man or woman in the height of fashion, spiff (q.v.).

Heavy-wet. 1. Malt liquor: specifically porter and stout: also Heavy: see Drinks (1821). 2. A heavy drinking bout.

Hebe. A waiting maid, a barmaid, waitress (1603).

Hebrew. Gibberish, Greek (q.v.). *To talk Hebrew,* to talk nonsense, gibberish (1705).

Hector. A bully, blusterer (1659). As verb, to play the bully, bluster: also to play the Hector (1677). *To wear Hector's cloak,* to receive the right reward for treachery: when Thomas Percy, Earl of Northumberland, was routed in 1569, he hid himself in the house of Hector Armstrong, of Harlaw, who betrayed him for hire, and prospered so ill thereafter that he died a beggar by the roadside.

Hectoring. Bullying, blustering.

Hedge. 1. To secure oneself against (or minimise) loss on a bet by reversing on advantageous terms, To get out (q.v.): thus if a man backs A to win him £100 at 5 to 1, he will if possible hedge by laying (say) 3 to 1 to the amount of (say) £60 against him; he will then stand thus—if A wins he gains on the first bet £100, and loses on the second £60, leaving a net gain of £40; if A loses he gets on the first bet £20, and wins on the second £20, thus clearing himself; also, as subs. (1616). 2. To elude a danger. *To die by the hedge*, to die in poverty; *to hang in the hedge*, of a lawsuit or anything else Depending, Undetermined (*B. E.*); *as common as the hedge* (or *highway*), very common; *by hedge or by crook*: see Hook.

Hedge-bird. A scoundrel, vagabond, vagrant (1614).

Hedge-bottom Attorney (or **Solicitor**). A person who, being not admitted, or being uncertificated (or, it way be, admitted and certificated both, but struck off the rolls for malpractices), sets up in the name of a qualified man, and thus evades the penalties attaching to those who act as solicitors without being duly qualified: all the business is done in another name, but the hedge-bottom is the real principal, the partner being only a dummy.

Hedge-creeper. A hedge-thief, skulker under hedges, pitiful rascal (1594).

Hedge-marriage (or **wedding**). An irregular marriage performed by a hedge-priest (q.v.), a marriage over the broom.

Hedge-note. Low writing: as Dryden, They left these hedge-notes for another sort of poem.

Hedge-popping. Shooting small birds about hedges. Whence, *hedge-popper*, a trumpery shooter; and *hedge-game*, small birds, as sparrows and tits.

Hedge-priest (or **parson**). A sham cleric, a blackguard or vagabond parson, a couple beggar. As Johnson notes, the use of Hedge in a detrimental sense is common—hedge-begot, hedge-born, hedge-brat, hedge-found, hedge-docked, hedge-tavern (a low ale-house), hedge-square (q.v.), hedge-reared, hedge-mustard, hedge-writer (a Grub Street author), hedge-building, etc. Shakespeare uses the phrase hedge-born as the very opposite of gentle-blooded ('1 Henry VI.,' IV. i.). Specifically, hedge-priest (in Ireland) is a cleric admitted to orders directly from a hedge-school (q.v.) without having studied theology: before Maynooth, men were admitted to ordination ere they left for the continental colleges, so that they might receive the stipend for saying mass (1588).

Hedge-school. A school in the country parts of Ireland formerly conducted in the open air, pending the erection of a permanent building to which the name was transferred. Hence, hedge-schoolmaster.

Hedge-square. *To doss* (or *snooze*) *in Hedge-square* (or *street*), to sleep in the open air. English synonyms: to skipper it, doss with the daisies, be under the blue blanket, put up at the Gutter Hotel, do a star pitch.

Hedge-tavern (or **ale-house**). A jilting, sharping tavern, or blind alehouse (*B. E.*).

Heel. *To bless the world with one's heels*, to be hanged: see Ladder (1566). *To cool* (or *kick*) *the heels*, to wait a long while at an appointed place (1614). *To lay by the heels*, to confine, fetter, jail (1601); *to lift one's heels*, to lie down; *to turn* (or *topple*) *up the heels* (or *toes*), to die: see Hop the twig (1592); *to take to* (or *show*) *a pair of heels*, to take flight, run away: see Burk (1593); *his heels*, the knave of trumps at cribbage or all-fours: hence, *two for his heels*, two points scored (at cribbage) for turning up this card; *to tread upon* (*be at*, or *upon*) *the heels*, to follow close or hard after, pursue (1596); *to go heels over head*, to turn a somersault, be hasty, fall violently: also top over tail (1540); *to have* (or *get*) *the heels of*, to outrun, get an advantage (1748); *down* (or *out*) *at heel*, slipshod, shabby, in decay (1605).

Heeled. Armed: from the steel spur used in cock-fighting.

Heeler. 1. A follower or henchman of a politician or a party. 2. A bar, or other loafer; also any one on the lookout for shady work. 3. An accomplice in the pocket-book racket (q.v.): the *heeler* draws attention, by touching the victim's heels, to a pocket-book containing counterfeit money which has been let drop by a companion, with a view to inducing the victim to part with genuine coin for a division of the find. 4. (Winchester College). A plunge, feet foremost, into water: Fr., *chandelle.*

Heel-taps. 1. Liquor in the bottom of a glass. *Bumpers round and no heel taps*, fill full, and drain dry! Fr., *musique* (1795). 2. A dance peculiar to London dustmen.

Heifer. A woman; *old heifer* (in Western America), a term of endearment.

Heifer-paddock. A ladies' school.

Heigh-ho. Stolen yarn: from the expression used to apprise a fence that the speaker had stolen yarn to sell.

Helbat. A table.

Hell. 1. Generic for a place of confinement, as in some games (Sydney), or a cell in a prison: specifically, a place under the Exchequer Chamber, where the king's debtors were confined (1593). 2. A workman's receptacle for stolen or refuse pieces, as cloth, type, etc.; one's eye (q.v.): also hell-hole and hell-box. *Hell-matter* (printers') old and battered type (1589). 3. A gambling house: whence *silver-hell*, a gambling house where only silver is played for. *Dancing-hell*, an unchartered hall; and so forth (1823). *Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory*, three ale-houses formerly situated near Westminster Hall (1610); *hell broke loose*, extreme disorder, anarchy (1623); *hell of a lark, goer, row*, and so forth), very much of a ——, a popular intensitive; *all to hell* (or *gone to hell*), utterly ruined; *to hope* (or *wish*) *to hell*, to desire intensely; *to play* (or *kick up*) *hell and tommy*, to ruin utterly: also *to play hell and break things, to raise hell, to make hell's delight* (1837); *to lead apes in hell*, to die an old maid: from a popular superstition (1599); *to give hell*, to trounce, abuse, punish severely: also (American), to make one smell hell; *hell for leather*, with the utmost energy and desperation; *like hell*, desperately, with all one's might; *go to hell!* an emphatic dismissal; *hell and scissors!* an ejaculation of surprise and ridicule.

Hell-bender. A drunken frolic, a tremendous row: also *hell-a-popping* and *hell's delight*.

Hell-broth. Bad liquor: see Drinks.

Hell-cat (hag, hound, kite, etc.). A man or woman of hellish disposition, a lewdster of either sex: cf. Hallion (1606).

Hell-driver. A coachman (1696).

Hellite. A professional gambler (*Ducange*).

Hellophone. The telephone: from Halloo!

Help. A hired assistant. *Lady-help*, a woman acting as a companion and undertaking the lighter domestic duties with or without wages (1824). *So help* (or *s'elp* or *s'welp*) *me God* (*Bob, never*, or *say-so*), an emphatic asseveration.

Helpa. An apple.

Helpless. Drunk: see Screwed.

Hemp (or **Hemp-seed, Stretch-hemp, Hemp-string,** or **Hempy**). 1. A rogue, candidate fit for the gallows: frequently used jocularly: see crack-halter (q.v.): Fr., *graine de bagne*. 2. A halter (1754); as verb, to choke, strangle. *To wag hemp in the wind*, to be hanged (1532).

Hempen-bridle. A ship's rope or rigging.

Hempen Collar (candle, circle, cravat, croak, garter, necktie, or **habeas).** The hangman's noose, a halter: also hemp, and the hearty-choke (1530).

Hempen Fever. *To die of a hempen fever*, to be hanged: see Ladder (*Grose*).

Hempen-fortune. Bad luck: also the gallows.

Hempen-squincy. Hanging: see Ladder (1646).

Hempen-widow. A woman widowed by the gallows (1696).

Hen. 1. A woman: specifically, a wife or mistress (1811). 2. Drink money: see Hen drinking. As verb, to funk, turn tail; *to hen on*, to fear to attempt. *Cock and hen club*, club open to both sexes. *Hens and chickens*, pewter measures—quarts and pints: cf. Cat and kittens (1851).

Hen-drinking. A Yorkshire marriage-custom: on the evening of the wedding day the young men of the village call upon the bridegroom for a hen—meaning money for refreshments . . . . should the hen be refused, the inmates may expect some ugly trick to the house ere the festivities terminate.

Hen Frigate. A ship commanded by the captain's wife: cf. Hen-pecked (*Grose*).

Hen-fruit. Eggs.

Hen- (or **Chicken-**) **hearted.** Timorous, cowardly (1529).

Hen-house. A house under petticoat government (*Grose*).

Hen-party (convention, or tea). An assemblage of women for political or social purposes.

Hen-pecked. Petticoat government, ruled by a woman (1696).

Hen-snatcher. A chicken thief.

Hens'-rights. Women's rights.

Hen-toed. To turn the toes in walking, like a fowl.

Here. *Here's to you* (*at you, unto you, now*, or *luck*), an invitation to drink, here's a health to you (1651). *Here's luck*, I don't believe you. *I am not here*, I don't feel inclined to work, I wish to be left alone.

Here-and-Thereian. A rolling stone, a person with no permanent address (*Lex. Bal.*, 1811).

Hereford. White: Herefords are white-faced.

Herefordshire-weed. An oak.

Her Majesty's Carriage. A prison van, the King's 'bus: see Black Maria: Fr., *omnibus à pègres*.

Her Majesty's Tobacco pipe. The furnace where forfeited tobacco from the Customs House was burnt: now a thing of the past: the tobacco being distributed to workhouses, etc.: see Tobacco-pipe.

Herod. *To out-Herod Herod*, to out-do, specifically (theatrical) to excel in rant (1596).

Herring. *Neither fish, flesh, fowl, nor good red herring*, neither one thing not the other (1682); *to throw a sprat to catch a herring* (or *whale*), to forego an advantage in the hope of greater profit (1826); *dead as a herring* (or *shotten herring*), quite dead: herrings die sooner on leaving the water than most fish (1596); *like herrings in a barrel*, very crowded; *the devil a barrel the better herring*, all alike, indistinguishable.

Herring-gutted. Lanky, thin (*Grose*).

Herring-pond. The sea: specifically, the North Atlantic Ocean. *To be sent across the herring-pond*, to be transported (1722).

Hertfordshire-kindness. An acknowledgment, or return, in kind, of favours received: spec. drinking to him who has already toasted one.

Hewgag. *The Hewgag*, an undeterminate, unknown, mythical creature.

Hiccius Doccius. A juggler; also a shifty fellow or trickster (1676). As adj., drunk.

Hic Jacet. A tombstone; also a memorial inscription (1598).

Hick. A man; specifically a countryman, a booby: also (American thieves') *hickjop* and *hicksam* (1696).

Hickety-split. With all one's might, at top speed, hammer and tongs (q.v.), full chisel (q.v.).

Hickey. Drunk: see Screwed.

Hickory-shirt. A checked shirt, cotton or wool.

Hide. The human skin: once literary, now colloquial or vulgar (1568). As verb, to flog, tan.

Hidebound. Barren, intractable, niggardly, pedantic, utterly immovable (1606).

Hiding. A thrashing.

Higgledy-piggledy. In confusion, topsy-turvy, at sixes and sevens (1598).

High. 1. Drunk: see Screwed. 2. Stinking, gamey (q.v.); whence, by implication, diseased, obscene in intention and effect. *The High and Dry*, the High Church or Anglo-Catholic party in the Establishment, as opposed to the Low and Slow (q.v.), or Evangelical section: cf. Broad and Shallow (1854). *High and dry*, stranded, abandoned, irrecoverable; *high and mighty*, arrogant, imperious, proud, on the high horse or the high ropes (q.v.), full of side (q.v.); *too high for one's nut*, out of one's reach, beyond one's capacity, over one's bend (q.v.); *you can't get high enough*, a derisive comment on any kind of failure; *how is that for high?* what do you think of it?—once a tag universal, common wear now (1860).

High-bellied (or **High in the belly**). Pregnant: also High-waisted.

Highbinder. 1. A Chinese blackmailer. 2. (political American). A political conspirator (*Norton*).

High-bloke. 1. A judge. 2. A well-dressed man, splawger (q.v.).

Highfalute. To use fine words, yarn (q.v.): Fr., *faire l'étroite*. Whence *highfaluting*, bombast, rant; and as adj., bombastic, fustian, thrasonical (1860).

High-feather. *In high feather*, in luck, on good terms with oneself and the world.

High-fly. *To be on the high-fly*, specifically, to practise the begging-letter imposture, but (generally) to tramp the country as a beggar (1839).

Highflyer. 1. Anything or anybody out of the common—in opinion, pretension, attire, and so forth. 2. A dandy, male or female, of the first water. 3. A fast coach (1690). 4. A beggar with a certain style, begging-letter writer, broken swell (1851). 5. A swing fixed in rows in a frame much in vogue at fairs.

High-flying. 1. Extravagance in opinion, pretension, or conduct (1689). 2. Begging, the high-fly (q.v.), Stilling (q.v.).

High-gag. A whisperer (*Matsell*). *The high gag*, telling secrets (*Matsell*).

High-game. A mansion (thieves').

High - gig. *In high gig*, in good fettle, lively.

High-go. A drinking bout, frolic.

High - heeled Shoes. *To have high-heeled shoes on*, to set up as a person of consequence, do the grand (q.v.).

High Horse. *To go* (or *get*) *on* (or *ride*) *the high horse*, to give oneself airs, stand on one's dignity, take offence: Fr., *monter sur ses grands chevaux*: the simile is common to most languages (1716).

High - jinks. 1. An old game variously played: most frequently dice were thrown by the company, and those upon whom the lot fell were obliged to assume and maintain for a time a certain fictitious character, or to repeat a certain number of fescennine verses in a particular order. If they departed from the characters assigned ... they incurred forfeits, which were compounded for by swallowing an additional bumper (*Guy Mannering*, Note to ch. xxxii.) (1696). 2. A gambler at dice, who, having a strong head, drinks to intoxicate his adversary or pigeon. Under this head are also classed those fellows who keep little goes, take in insurances; also, attendants at the races, and at the E O tables; chaps always on the lookout to rob unwary countrymen at cards, etc. (*Grose*). 3. A frolic, row. *To be at his high jinks*, to be stilted and arrogant in manner, ride the high horse (q.v.): Fr., *faire sa merde* (or *sa poire*).

High-kicker. Specifically a dancer whose speciality is the high kick or the *porte d' armes*; whence, by metaphor, any desperate spreester (q.v.), male or female.

High - kilted. Obscene or thereabouts, full flavoured (q.v.).

Highland-bail. The right of the strongest, *force majeure* (1816).

High - lawyer. A highwayman: see Thief (1592).

High - liver. A garrotter, thief housed in an attic: hence *high-living*, lodging in a garret (*Lex. Bal.*).

High-men. Dice loaded to run high: also, *high-runners* (1594).

High - nosed. Very proud in look and in fact, supercilious in bearing and speech, superior (q.v.).

High (or gay) old time (Game, Liar, etc.). A general intensive: e.g. *high old time*, a very merry time indeed; *high old liar*, a liar of might; *high old drunk*, an uncommon booze (q.v.).

High-pad (Toby, or High-Toby-splice). 1. The highway: also *high-splice toby* (1567). 2. A highwayman: also *high - tobyman* (or *-gloak*). (1696). 3. Highway robbery (1819).

High-pooped. Heavily buttocked.

High - rented. 1. Hot. 2. Very well known to the police; hot (q.v.).

High-roller. A goer (q.v.), fast liver, heavy gambler, highflyer (q.v.).

High - ropes. *To be on the high-ropes*, to be angry, excited: also to put on airs, stand on one's dignity, ride the high-horse (q.v.) (1811).

High-seasoned (or Highly-spiced). Obscene: cf. Spicy.

High- (or clouted-) shoon. A countryman, joskin (q.v.) (1696).

High-sniffing. Pretentious, supercilious, very obviously better than one's company, high-nosed (q.v.).

High-stepper. An exemplar (male or female) of what is fashionable, swell (q.v.): also a person of spirit. Whence, *high-stepping* (or *high-pacing*), conspicuously elegant or gallant, in dress, speech, manner, conduct, anything.

High - stomached. Proud, disdainful, pot-valiant.

High-strikes. Hysterics (1838).

High-tea. Tea with meat, etc.: in Lancashire, bagging (q.v.).

High-ti. A showy recitation (American: Williams Coll.); at Harvard, a squirt (q.v.).

High-tide (or water). Rich for the moment, the state of being flush (q.v.) (1696). *Up to high-water mark* in good condition: a general expression of approval.

High-toby. See High pad.

High-toned. Aristocratic; also, morally and intellectually endowed, beyond the common. *High-souled,* cultured, fashionable. *High-toned nigger,* a negro who has raised himself in social position. [Once literary; now utterly discredited and never used, save in ignorance or derision. Stokes, the maniac who shot Garfield, described himself as a high-toned lawyer.]

Highty-tighty (or **Hoity-toity**). A wanton (1696). As adj., peremptory, waspish, quarrelsome.

High Wood. *To live in high wood,* to hide, dissemble of purpose, lie low, keep quiet.

Higulcion-flips. An imaginary ailment.

Hike. To move about: also to carry off, arrest (1811).

Hilding. A jade, wanton, disreputable slut (1593).

Hill. *Not worth a hill of beans,* absolutely worthless.

Hills (Winchester Coll.). 1. St. Catharine's Hill. 2. (Cambridge Univ.) The Gogmagog Hills: a common morning's ride (*Gradus ad Cantab.*).

Hilly. Difficult: e.g. *hilly reading,* hard to read; *hilly going,* not easy to do; etc.

Hilt. *Loose in the hilt,* unsteady, rocky (q.v.), lax in the bowels (1639).

Hind-boot. The breech.

Hind-coachwheel. A five shilling piece: Fr., *roue de derrière, thune,* or *palet,* a five franc piece: see Rhino.

Hind-leg. *To kick out a hind leg,* to lout, make a rustic bow. *To talk the hind leg off a horse* (or *dog*): see Talk; *to sit upon one's hind legs and howl,* to bemoan one's fate, make a hullabaloo.

Hindoo. See Know-nothing. *Hindoo punishment,* more often called the muscle grind, a rather painful exercise upon the bar, in which the arms are turned backward to embrace the bar, and then brought forward upon the chest, in which position the performer revolves.

Hind-shifters. The feet: see Creepers (1823).

Hinges. *Off the hinges,* in confusion, out of sorts, not quite the thing.

Hip. *To have* (*get,* or *catch*) *on the hip,* to have (or get) an advantage (1591).

Hipe. A throw over the hip. Hence, as verb, to get across the hip before the throw.

Hip-hop. To skip or move on one leg, hop: a cant word framed by the reduplication of hop (*Johnson*) (1700).

Hip-inside. An inner pocket. *Hip-outside,* an outer ditto.

Hipped (or **Hippish**). Bored, melancholical, out of sorts (1710).

Hippen. A baby's napkin (i.e. hipping cloth). Also (theatrical), the green curtain.

Hiren. 1. A prostitute: a corruption of Irene, the heroine in Poole's play (1584). 2. A sword: also a roaring bully, fighting hector: from Irene, the Goddess of Peace, *a lucus a non lucendo.*

Hishee-Hashee. See Soap-and-bullion.

His Nibs (or **Nabs**). See Nibs.

Hiss. The hiss (Winchester College), the signal of a master's approach.

Historical- (**Wrought-,** or **Illustrated-**) **Shirt.** A shirt or shift worked or woven with pictures or texts (1596).

History of the Four Kings. See Four Kings.

Hit. A success: e.g. *to make a hit,* to score, profit, excel (1602). As adj. (Old Bailey), convicted. *Hard-hit,* sore beset, hard-up (q.v.): also deep in love (grief, or anger). As verb, to arrive at, light on. *To hit it,* to attain an object, light upon a device, guess a secret (1594); *to hit off,* to agree together, fit, describe with accuracy and precision (1857); *to hit the flat,* to go out on the prairie (cowboy); *to hit the pipe,* to smoke opium; *to hit one where he lives,* to touch in a tender part, hurt the feelings, touch on the raw (q.v.); *hit* (or *struck*) *with,* taken, enamoured, prepossessed: also hit up with; *hit in the teeth,* to reproach, taunt, fling in one's face (1663).

Hitch. 1. To marry. *Hitched,* married. 2. To agree: also *to hitch horses. To hitch one's team to the fence,* to settle down.

Hittite. A prize fighter. English synonyms: basher, bruiser, dukester, fistite, knight of the fist, gemman of the fancy, milling-cove, pug, puncher, scrapper, slasher, slogger, slugger, sparring-bloke (1823).

Hive. To steal. *To get hived,* to be caught in a scrape: also to be hidden. *To be hived perfectly frigid,* to be caught *in flagrante delicto.*

Hivite. A student of St. Bees' (Cumberland).

Hoaky. *By the hoaky,* a popular form of adjuration.

Hoax. A jest, practical joke, take-in: originally (*Grose*) University cant. As verb, to play a practical joke, take-in, bite (q.v.).

Hob (or Hobbinol). A clown (*Grose*).

Hob and Nob (or Hob Nob). 1. To invite to drink, clink glasses (1756). 2. To give or take, to hit or miss at random (1577). 3. To be on terms of close intimacy, consort familiarly together.

Hobbes's-voyage. A leap in the dark (1697).

Hobbinol. Countryman, joskin (1663).

Hobble. *In a hobble* (or *hobbled*), in trouble, hampered, puzzled: also (thieves'), committed for trial: Fr., *tomber dans la mélasse* (to come a cropper), and *faitré* (booked, q.v.). *Hobbled upon the legs,* transported or on the hulks (1777).

Hobbledehoy. A growing gawk: as in the folk-rhyme, Hobbledehoy, neither man nor boy. [For derivation, see *Notes and Queries,* 1 S., v. 468, vii. 572; 4 S., ii. 297, viii. 451, ix. 47; 7 S., iv. 523, and v. 58.] (1557). Hence *Hobbledehoyish* and *Hobbledehoyhood.*

Hobbledelee. A pace between a walk and a run, a jog-trot (1811).

Hobbler. A coast-man — half smuggler, half handyman; an unlicensed pilot: also a landsman acting as tow-Jack (*Smyth*). Also (Isle of Man), a boatman.

Hobby. 1. A hackney, a horse in common use (1606). 2. A translation. *To ride hobbies,* to use cribs (q.v.). *Sir Posthumous Hobby,* one nice or whimsical in his clothes.

Hobby-horse. 1. A whim, fancy, favourite pursuit. Hence *Hobby-horsical,* strongly attached to a particular fad (1759). 2. A rantipole girl, wench, wanton (1594). 3. A witless, unmannerly lout (1609). As verb, to romp.

Hob-collingwood. The four of hearts: considered an unlucky card.

Hob-jobber. A man or boy on the look-out for small jobs—holding horses, carrying parcels, and the like.

Hob-nail. A countryman, joskin (1647).

Hobnailed. Boorish, clumsy, coarse, ill-done (1599).

Hobson's-choice. That or none: i.e. there is no alternative: popularly derived from the name of a Cambridge livery stable keeper, whose rule was that each customer must take the horse next the door, or have no horse at all.

Hock. 1. The last card in the dealer's box at faro. Hence, from *soda* (q.v.) *to hock,* from beginning to end. 2. In pl., the feet. *Curby hocks,* clumsy foot: see Creepers (*Grose*). *Old hock,* stale beer; swipes (q.v.). *In hock,* laid by the heels, fleeced, bested (q.v.); and (thieves'), in prison.

Hock-dockies. Shoes: see Trotter-cases (1789).

Hockey. Drunk, especially on stale beer: see Screwed.

Hocus. 1. A cheat, impostor: see Hocus-pocus (1654). 2. Drugged liquor (1823). As adj., drunk: see Screwed. As verb, (1) to cheat, impose upon; (2) to drug, snuff (q.v.) (1836).

Hocus-pocus. 1. A juggler's phrase: hence a juggler's (or impostor's) stock in trade: also Hocus-trade (1639). 2. A trickster, juggler, impostor (1625). 3. A cheat, imposition, juggler's trick (1713). As adj., cheating, fraudulent (1715). As verb, to cheat, trick.

Hod (or Brother Hod). A bricklayer's labourer. *Hod of mortar,* a pot of porter.

Hoddy-doddy (or Hoddie-doddie). A short thick-set man or woman: see Forty-guts. Also a fool (1534).

Hoddy-peak (or peke). A fool, cuckold (1529).

Hodge. A farm labourer, rustic (1589).

Hodge-podge (or Hotch-potch). A mixture, medley: Sp., *commistrajo*: see Hotch-potch (1553).

Hodman. A scholar from Westminster School admitted to Christ Church College, Oxford (1728).

Hodmandod. 1. A snail in his

shell (*Bacon*): see Doddy (1663). 2. A Hottentot (1686).

Hoe. *To hoe in*, to work with vigour, swot (q.v.). *To hoe one's own row*, to do one's own work. *Hard row to hoe*: see Hard row.

Hoe-down. A negro dance, breakdown (q.v.).

Hog. 1. A shilling: also a sixpence: and (in America) a ten-cent piece: see Rhino (1686). 2. A foul-mouthed blackguard, dirty feeder: also, a common glutton (1598). 3. (Cambridge Univ.: obsolete), a student of St. John's: also Johnian Hog: see Crackle, Bridge of Grunts, and Isthmus of Suez (1690). 4. A yearling sheep (1796). 5. An inhabitant of Chicago: that city being a notable pig-breeding and pork-packing centre. 6. A Hampshireman (1770). As verb, (1) to cheat, humbug, gammon (q.v.); (2) to cut short: e.g. to hog a horse's mane. *A hog in armour*, a lout in fine clothes: also a Jack-in-office (q.v.): *Hog-in-togs* (in America), a well-dressed loafer (*Grose*). *Hog and hominy*, plain fare, common doings (q.v.): pork and maize are the two cheapest food stuffs in the U.S.A. *To go the whole hog*: see Whole animal. *To bring one's hogs* (or *pigs*) *to a fine market*, to do well, make a good deal (q.v.): also in sarcasm, the opposite (1696). *To drive one's hogs* (or *pigs*) *to market*, to snore (1738).

Hog-age. The period between boyhood and manhood: cf. Hobbledehoy.

Hogan-mogan. The States-General of the United Provinces were officially addressed as High and Mighty Lords, or in Dutch, Hoogmogenden; hence English satirists called them hogans-mogans, and applied the phrase to Dutchmen in general.

Hog-grubber. A miser, niggard, mean cuss (q.v.) (1696).

Hogmenay. 1. New Year's Eve, which is a national festival: the origin of the term has been the subject of much discussion (1776). 2. Hence a wanton: the feast was celebrated with much drink and not a little license.

Hogo. A flavour, aroma, relish. Hence, in irony, and by corruption, a stink: cf. Fogo: from Fr., *haut goût* (1569).

Hogshead. *To couch a hogshead*, to lie down to sleep (1567).

Hog-shearing. Much ado about nothing, great cry and little wool (1696).

Hogs-Norton. *To have been born at Hogs-Norton*, to be ill-mannered (1666).

Hog-wash. 1. Bad liquor; specifically, rot-gut (q.v.). 2. Worthless newspaper matter, slush, swash, and flub-dub (q.v.).

Hoi Polloi. The candidates for ordinary degrees: from the Greek: cf. Gulf.

Hoist. A shop-lifter; also a confederate hoisting or helping a thief to reach an open window. *The hoist*, shop-lifting. *To go upon the hoist*, to enter a house by an open window (*Grose*). As verb, (1) to shop-lift, rob by means of the hoist (q.v.); (2) to run away: see Bunk; (3) to drink: e.g. *Will you hoist?* will you have a liquor? *hoisting*, drinking; *on the hoist*, on the drunk: also a *hoist in*. *To give a hoist*, to do a bad turn.

Hoister. 1. A shop-lifter, hoist (q.v.): also a pickpocket. 2. A sot: see Lushington.

Hoisting (or **Hoist-lay**). 1. Shop-lifting, the hoist (q.v.): also shaking a man head downwards, so that his money rolls out of his pockets. 2. A ludicrous ceremony, formerly performed on every soldier the first time he appeared in the field after being married, as soon as the regiment, or company, had grounded their arms, to rest awhile; three or four men of the same company to which the bridegroom belonged, seized upon him, and putting a couple of bayonets out of the two corners of his hat, to represent horns, it was placed on his head, the back part foremost, he was then hoisted on the shoulders of two strong fellows, and carried round the arms, a drum and fife beating and playing the pioneers' call, named *Round-heads and Cuckolds*, but on this occasion styled the *Cuckold's March*: in passing the colours he was to take off his hat . . . . This in some regiments was practised by the officers on their brethren (*Grose*).

Hoit (or **Hoyt**). To be noisily or riotously inclined (1611).

Hoity-toity. See Highty-tighty.

Hokey-pokey. 1. A cheat, swindle, nonsense: from Hocus-pocus. 2. A cheap ice-cream sold in the streets.

Holborn Hill. *To ride back-*

wards up Holborn Hill, to go to the gallows: the way was thence to Tyburn, criminals riding backwards (*Grose*) (1614).

Hold. To bet, wager: see Do you hold? *infra* (1534). Phrases: *To hold on to*, to apply oneself, be persistent: generally, *to hold on like grim death*; *to hold up*, (1) to rob on the highway, bail or stick up (q.v.): also as subs., a highwayman, road-agent (q.v.); (2) to arrest: see Nab; *to hold the stage*, to have the chief place on the boards and the eye of an audience: Fr., *avoir les planches*; *to hold a candle to* (*the devil*, etc.): see Devil; *to hold a candle to*, to vie with, be comparable to, assist in or condone; *to hold* (or *hang*) *on by the eyelids*, *eyelashes* or *eyebrows*, (1) to pursue an object desperately, insist upon a point, carry on a forlorn hope: see Splash-board; (2) said of a man aloft with nothing much to lay hold of; *to hold in hand*, to amuse, possess the attention of the mind, have in one's pocket; *to hold the market*, to buy stock and hold it to so large an extent that the price cannot decline; *do you hold?* have you money to lend? can you stand treat? *hold your horses*, go easy, don't get excited: a general injunction to calm in act and speech; *hold your jaw*, hold your tongue, stow your gab (q.v.); *Hold hard!* (or *on*)! wait a moment! don't be in a hurry! (1761); *to hold-stitch*: see Stitch; *to hold water*: see Water.

Hold-out. An old-fashioned apparatus, in poker, for holding out desirable cards.

Hole. 1. A cell: cf. Hell, sense 1. (1540). 2. A cock-robin shop, private printing office: where unlicensed books were made (*Moxon*), (1683). 3. A difficulty, fix, hence (on the turf), *to be in a hole*, to lose (a bet) or be defeated (of horses) (1760). 4. A place of abode: specifically, a mean habitation, a dirty lodging: see Diggings. Phrases: *A hole in one's coat*, a flaw in one's fame, weak spot in one's character. *To pick a hole in one's coat*, to find a cause for censure; *to make* (or *burn*) *a hole in one's pocket*, said of money recklessly spent; *to make a hole in anything*, to use up largely (1663); *to make a hole in the water*, to commit suicide by drowning; *to make a hole*, to break, spoil, upset, interrupt; *to make a hole in one's manners*, to be rude; *to make a hole in one's reputation*, to betray, seduce; *to make a hole in the silence*, to make a noise, raise Cain (q.v.); *too drunk to see a hole in a ladder*, very drunk: see Screwed.

Hole-and-corner. Secret, underhand, out of the way: e.g. *hole-and-corner work*, shady business.

Holiday. Unskilled, indifferent, careless (*Grose*). *Blind man's holiday*: see ante. *To have a holiday at Peckham*, to go dinnerless. *All holiday at Peckham*, no work and nothing to eat. *To take a holiday*, to be dismissed, get the gag (q.v.), or sack (q.v.). *Gone for a holiday*, said of a flaw, lapse, or imperfection of any kind (as dropped stitches, lost buttons, slurred painting, and so forth: also (*Grose*), any part of a ship's bottom left uncovered in painting it, and (*Clark Russell*) places left untarred on shrouds, backstays, etc., during the operation of tarring them.

Holler. To cry enough, give in, cave in (q.v.) (1847).

Hollis (Winchester College). A small pebble (*Notions*).

Hollow. Complete, certain, decided: as adv., completely, utterly: e.g. to beat or lick hollow (1759).

Holt. To take, take hold of.

Holus-bolus. The head: also the neck. As adv., helter skelter, altogether, first come first served.

Holy. *More holy than righteous*, said of a person in rags, or of a tattered garment.

Holy-boys. The Ninth Foot, now the Norfolk Regiment: from a trick of selling bibles for drink in the Peninsula.

Holy - father. A butcher's boy of St. Patrick's market, Dublin, or other Irish blackguard; among whom the exclamation, or oath, by the Holy Father (meaning the Pope), is common (*Grose*).

Holy Iron. See Holy Poker.

Holy Joe. A pious person, whether hypocritical or sincere: also nautical), a parson.

Holy Jumping Mother of Moses. See Moses.

Holy - lamb. A thorough-paced villain (*Grose*).

Holy-land (or **Ground**). 1. St. Giles's, Palestine (q.v.) (1819). 2. Generic for any neighbourhood affected by Jews: specifically, Bayswater, and Brighton: cf. New Jerusalem, and Holy of Holies.

Holy Moses. See Moses.

Holy of Holies. 1. The Grand Hotel at Brighton: which is largely tenanted by Jews. 2. A private room; a sanctum (q.v.).

Holy Poker (or **Iron**). The mace carried by an esquire bedel (of Law, Physic, or Divinity) as a badge of authority: the term, which is applied to the bedels themselves, is very often used as an oath.

Holy-water Sprinkler. A mediæval weapon of offence; a morning star (q.v.).

Home. England. *To get home,* 1. to achieve an object, succeed perfectly, and (athletic) to reach the winning post. 2. to get in (a blow) with precision and effect, land (q.v.): also (old) to give a mortal wound (1559) 3. To recover a loss, neither to win nor lose, come out quits: also, *to bring oneself home. To make oneself at home,* to take one's ease, be familiar to the point of ill-breeding. *To come home to,* to reach the conscience, touch deeply. *To go* (*send,* or *carry*) *home* (or *to one's last home*), to die, kill, bury: the Chinese say, To go home horizontally: see Hop the twig (1598).

Home-bird. A hen-pecked husband: also a milksop: Fr., *chauffe-la-couche* (warming-pan).

Home for lost dogs. A large and well-known medical school in London: from the fact that the majority of its inmates have strayed there from the various hospital schools, as a last resource toward taking a degree.

Home-rule. Irish whisky: see Drinks.

Homo. A man: generally Omee (q.v.): from the Latin: see Cove.

Homoney. A woman, also a wife: see Homo (1754).

Homo-opathise. To get bills (i.e. petitions) through Legislature, Congress, or City Council, by means of bills (i.e. bank-bills).

Honest. 1. Chaste (1596). 2. Not positively illegal: as *honest penny* or *shilling,* money earned by means immoral (as by prostitution) but within the law. *To turn an honest penny,* to make a profitable deal (1677). *To make an honest woman,* to marry a mistress (1629). *As honest a man as when kings are out,* knavish. *Honest as the skin between the brows* (or *horns*), as honest as may be (1551).

Honest Injun! A pledge of sincerity; honour bright (q.v.).

Honey. 1. A good fellow. 2. Money: see Rhino. 3. A term of endearment. As verb, to cajole, exchange endearments, deceive by soft words or promises (1596). *To sell honey for a halfpenny,* to rate at a vile price (1592).

Honey-blobs. Large, ripe, yellow gooseberries (1746).

Honeycomb. A sweetheart: a general term of endearment (1562).

Honey-fogle (or **fugle**). To cheat, swindle, humbug: see Gammon.

Honour Bright! Upon my honour (1819).

Hood. *Two faces under one hood* (or *hat*), double-dealing. *To put a bone in one's hood,* to cuckold (1560).

Hoodlum. A young rough of either sex: also (political), a low-class voter: originally Californian: cf. Arab.

Hoodman. A blind man, groper (q.v.). As adj., blind; spec. drunk: also *hoodman blind,* blind drunk: Fr., *berlu* and *sans mirettes.*

Hoof. A foot: see Creepers (1836). As verb, to kick. Hence, *to hoof out,* to eject, dismiss, discharge, decline to see. *To hoof it* (*to pad* or *beat the hoof*), to walk, tramp it, run away; hence Hoof-padding (1596). *To see one's hoof in* (a thing), to detect personal influence or interference in a matter.

Hoof-padder. A pedestrian.

Hoofy. Splay, large.

Hook. 1. A finger: see Fork. In pl., the hands: also Hooks and Feelers (q.v.). 2. A thief (1562). 3. A catch, advantage, imposture. As verb, (1) to rob, steal: specifically, to steal watches, rings, etc., from a shop by cutting a small hole in the window, and fishing for such articles with a piece of string with a hook at the end (1615); (2) to secure (as for marriage), marry. As intj. (Oxford Univ.), an expression implying doubt. Phrases: *On the hook,* (1) on the thieve, on the cross (q.v.); (2) on the hip (q.v.), at an advantage (1694); *hook and eye,* arm and arm; *to take* (or *sling*) *one's hook* (or *to hook it*), to decamp, run away: see Bunk; *to drop* (*go,* or *pop*) *off the hooks,* (1) to die: see Hop the twig

(1837); (2) to get married; *to hook on to*, to attach oneself to, button-hole (q.v.), follow up; *on one's own hook*, on one's own account (risk, or responsibility), for one's own sake, dependent on one's own resources (or exertions); *by hook or by crook*, by some means or other, by fair means or foul, at all hazards: probably of forestal origin (1298); *with a hook at the end*, a reservation of assent, over the left (q.v.), in a horn (q.v.) (1823); *off the hooks*, out of temper, vexed, disturbed, out of sorts: Fr., *sortir de ses gonds*, off the hinges (q.v.): see Nab the rust.

Hook and Snivey (or **Hookum Snivey**). 1. An imposture: specifically getting food on false pretences (1781). 2. An impostor as described in sense 1. 3. A contemptuous or sarcastic affirmation, accompanied by the gesture of taking a sight (q.v.) or playing hookey (q.v.). 4. A crook of thick iron wire in a wooden handle, used to undo the wooden bolts of doors from without (1801).

Hooked. Over-reached, snapt, trickt.

Hooker. 1. A thief (q.v.), angler (q.v.): also (modern) a watch-stealer, dip (q.v.). 'These hokers or Angglers, be peryllous and most wicked knaues, ... they customably carry with them a staffe of v. or vi. foote long, in which, within one ynch of the tope thereof, ys a lytle hole bored through, [leaf 9] in which hole they putte an yron hoke, and with the same they wyll pluck vnto them quickly any thing *that* they may reche ther with' (*Harman*). 2. A prostitute.

Hookey. *To play hookey*, to play truant, do Charley-wag (q.v.). *To do* (or *play*) *hookey* (or *hooky*), to apply the thumb and fingers to the nose, take a sight (q.v.), coffee-mill (q.v.).

Hookey Walker! (or **Walker!**) Be off! go away: also implying doubt: cf. With a hook. [*See*: From John Walker, a hook-nosed spy, whose reports were proved to be fabrications.]

Hooking-cow. A cow showing fight.

Hook-pole Lay. Pulling a man off his horse by means of iron hooks at the end of a long pole, and plundering him (Smith, *Lives of Highwaymen*, III. 192, 1720).

Hook-shop. A brothel.

Hoop. 1. A ring. 2. See Bullfinch. As verb, to beat. *To well hoop one's barrel*, to thrash soundly, tan (*Grose*). *To hoop it* (or *go through the hoop*), (1) to pass the Insolvent Debtor's Court; *to get hooped up*, whitewashed (q.v.); (2) to run away: see Bunk.

Hoop-stick. The arm.

Hoosier. A native of Indiana: perhaps the most reasonable of several ingenious explanations is, that in the early days the customary challenge or greeting in that region was, Who's yer? (who's here?): pronounced hoosier (*Norton*) (1843).

Hooter. 1. A steam-whistle, American devil (q.v.). 2. A wooden trumpet, so contrived as to make a horrible noise. 3. A corruption of iota: e.g. I don't care a hooter for him.

Hooting-pudding. A plum-pudding with such a paucity of plums that you can hear them hooting after each other (*Slang, Jargon, and Cant*).

Hop. A dance: generally informal, as a Cinderella (q.v.). Also (1579) the motions of dancing. *Hop-and-go-kick*, a lameter, hop-and-go-one: cf. Dot-and-carry-one. *To hop the wag*, to play truant, or Charley-wag (q.v.) *To hop* (or *jump*) *over the broom* (or *broomstick*), to live as husband and wife, live (or go) tally (q.v.) (1811). *To hop the twig*, (1) to leave, run away, skedaddle (q.v.): see Bunk (1785); (2) to die, kick the bucket (q.v.), to peg out (q.v.): also *to hop off*. English synonyms: to be content, to cock up one's toes, to croak, to cut (or let go) the painter, to cut one's stick, to give in, to give up, to go to Davy Jones' locker, to go off the hooks, to go under, to go up, to kick the bucket, kickeraboo (West Indian), to lay down one's knife and fork, to lose the number of one's mess, to mizzle, to pass in one's checks, to peg out, to put on a wooden surtout, to be put to bed with a shovel, to slip one's cable, to stick one's spoon in the wall, to snuff it, to take an earth bath, to take a ground sweat. *On the hop*, (1) unawares, at the nick of time, in *flagrante delicto*: also *on the h. o. p.*; (2) on the go, in motion, unresting; (3) See Hip.

Hopeful (or **Young Hopeful**). A boy or young man: in sarcasm or contempt (1856).

Hop- (or **Hap-**) **Harlot.** A coarse coverlet: cf. Wrap-rascal.

Hopkins (**Hoppy**, or **Mr Hopkins**). A lameter: see Dot-and-go-one-Giles (*Grose*). *Don't hurry, Hopkins!* ironical to persons slow to move or to meet an obligation.

Hop-merchant (or **Hoppy**). A dancing master, caper-merchant (q.v.). Also a fiddler (1696).

Hop-o'-my-thumb. A dwarf (1599). English synonyms: go-by-the-ground, grub, grundy, Jack Sprat, little breeches, shrimp, stump-of-the-gutter, tom-tit.

Hopper. The mouth: see Potato-trap. *To go a hopper*, to go quickly.

Hopper-Hipped. Large in the breech: also snaggy-boned: also as subs. (1529).

Hopper-docker. A shoe: see Trotter-cases.

Hop-picker. 1. A prostitute: also *Hopping-wife*. 2. In pl., the queens of all the four suits.

Hopping-Giles. A cripple: see Dot-and-go-one (*Grose*).

Hopping-Jesus. A lameter: see Dot and-go-one.

Hopping-mad. Very angry.

Hop-pole. A tall, slight person: male or female: see Lamp-post.

Horizontal Refreshment. Food taken standing; generally applied to a mid-day snack at a bar.

Horn. 1. The nose: also *horney*: see Conk (1823). 2. A drink; a dram of spirits: see Go (1849). Phrases: *To draw in one's horns*, to withdraw, retract, cool down (*Grose*); *to horn off*, to put on one side, shunt: as a bull or stag with their horns; *in a horn*, a general qualification (implying refusal or disbelief), over the left (q.v.); *to come out of the little end of the horn*, to get the worst of a bargain, be reduced in circumstances: also, to make much ado about nothing: said generally of vast endeavour ending in failure: through some unexpected squeeze (q.v.) (1605).

Hornet. A disagreeable, cantankerous person.

Hornie (or **Horness**). 1. A constable or watchman: also a sheriff. 2. The devil: generally Auld Hornie (q.v.).

Hornswoggle. Nonsense, humbug (q.v.): see Gammon. As verb, to humbug, delude, seduce.

Horn-thumb. A pickpocket: from the practice of wearing a sheath of horn to protect the thumb in cutting out (1569).

Horrors. 1. *Delirium tremens.* Also low spirits, or the blues (q.v.). 2. Sausages: see Chamber of horrors. 3. Handcuffs: see Darbies.

Horse. 1. A five-pound note: see Finnup. 2. Horsemonger Lane Gaol: also *the old horse*. 3. A man, a term of high regard and esteem. As verb, (1) a workman horses it when he charges for more in his week's work than he has really done: of course he has so much unprofitable work to get through in the ensuing week, which is called dead horse; also (2) for one of two men who are engaged on precisely similar pieces of work to make extraordinary exertions in order to work down the other man: this is sometimes done simply to see what kind of a workman a new man may be, but often with the much less creditable motive of injuring a fellow workman in the estimation of an employer. Phrases: *The gray mare is the better horse*: see Gray-mare; *horse foaled of an acorn*, (1) the gallows: see Nubbing-cheat (1760); (2) the triangles or crossed halberds under which soldiers were flogged; *old* (or *salt-*) *horse*, salt beef: also junk and salt-junk; *one-horse*, comparatively small, insignificant, unimportant (1858); *to be horsed*, to be flogged (from the wooden-horse used as a flogging-stool), to take on one's back as for a flogging; *to fall away from a horseload to a cartload*, ironically of one considerably improved in flesh of a sudden; *to flog the dead horse*: see Dead-horse and Horse; *to put the cart before the horse*, to begin at the wrong end, set things hind-side before (1696); *to put the saddle on the right horse*, to apportion accurately (1696); *to ride on a horse with* (or *bayard of*) *ten toes*, to walk, use the marrowbone-stage: cf. Shanks's mare (1606); *as good as a shoulder of mutton to a sick horse*, utterly worthless (1596); *as strong as a horse*, very strong: a general intensitive; *horse and horse*, neck and neck, even.

Horsebreaker (or **Pretty Horsebreaker**). A woman (c. 1860), hired to ride in the park; hence a riding *demi-mondaine*.

Horse-buss. A loud-sounding kiss, bite (q.v.) (*Grose*).

Horse-capper (coper, coser, courser, or chaunter). A dealer in worthless or faked horses: originally good English — *to cope*, to barter: see Chanter. Hence *Horse-coping* and *Horse-duffing* (1616).

Horse-collar. 1. An extremely long and wide collar. 2. A halter. *To die in a horse's nightcap*, to be hanged: see Ladder. English synonyms: anodyne necklace, Bridport dagger, choker, hempen cravat, hempen elixir, horse's neckcloth, horse's necklace, neck-squeezer, neckweed, squeezer, St. Andrew's lace, Sir Tristram's knot, tight cravat, Tyburn tiffany, Tyburn tippet, widow.

Horse-editor. A sporting editor. *Horse-copy*, sporting news.

Horseflesh. See Dead horse and Horse.

Horse-godmother. A strapping masculine woman, virago: Fr., *femme hommasse* (*Grose*).

Horse-latitudes. A space in the Atlantic, north of the trade-winds, where winds are baffling.

Horse-laugh. A loud, noisy laugh, guffaw (1738).

Horse-leech. 1. An extortioner, miser. 2. A horse-doctor; also a quack (1594).

Horse-marines. A mythical corps, very commonly cited in jokes and quizzies on the innocent. [The Jollies (q.v.) or Royal Marines, being ignorant of seamanship, have always been the butt of blue-jackets.] *Tell that to the marines* (or *horse-marines*), *the sailors won't believe it*, a rejoinder to an attempt at imposition or credulity: often amplified with *when they're riding at anchor*.

Horse-milliner. 1. A dandy trooper (1778). 2. A saddler and harness-maker (1818).

Horse-nails. Money: see Rhino. *To feed on horse-nails*, to play so as not to advance your own score so much as to keep down your opponent's. *To knock into horse-nails*, to knock to pieces, be absolutely victorious.

Horse-nightcap. See Horse's-collar.

Horse-protestant. A churchman.

Horse-sense. Sound and practical judgment.

Horse's-head. The boot-sole, heel, and what is left of the front after the back and part of the front have been used to fox (q.v.) other boots.

Horse's-meal. Meat without drink (*Grose*).

Horse-sovereign. A twenty-shilling piece with Pistrucci's effigies of St. George and the Dragon.

Hose. *In my other hose*, a qualification of refusal or disbelief, in a horn (q.v.), over the left (q.v.) (1598).

Hoss. See Horse.

Hoss-fly (or **Old Hoss-fly**). A familiar address: see Horse.

Host. *To reckon without one's host*, to blunder (1696). *Mine host*, a taverner.

Hosteler. An oat-stealer (*Grose*).

Hot (Winchester College). 1. A mellay at football; and, 2. a crowd. As adj., (1) of persons: sexually excitable, lecherous; of things (as books) obscene, blue (q.v.), high-kilted (q.v.); *hot member*, a male or female debauchee, a man or woman contemptuous of decorum; *hot as they make them*, exceedingly amorous or reckless; *hot-blooded*, lecherous: as (in 'Merry Wives,' v. v.) the hot-blooded gods assist me; *hot-house*, a brothel (1383); (2) careless of decorum, boisterous, utterly reckless, abandoned; (3) well known to the police, dangerous, uncomfortable; (4) violent, sharp, severe, passionate; (5) alive, vehement, instant. As verb (Winchester College), to crowd, mob. *To give* (*get*, or *catch*) *it hot*, to thrash or reprove soundly, be severely beaten or taken to task (1859). *Like a cat on hot bricks*, uncomfortable, restive. *Hot with*, spirits with hot water and sugar: see Cider, and Cold without.

Hot-beef. *To give hot-beef*, to cry Stop thief: also Beef (q.v.).

Hot-cakes. *To go off like hot cakes*, to sell readily, be in good demand.

Hot-foot. 1. Instant in pursuit. 2. Restless.

Hotch-potch. A medley, hodge-podge (q.v.) (1597).

Hot-coppers. The fever and parched throat, or mouth (q.v.), attending a debauch: see Cool one's Copper (1830).

Hotel Barbering. Bilking.

Hotel warming-pan. A chambermaid: also warming-pan (q.v.): Fr., *limogère*.

Hot-flannel (or Flannel). Gin and

beer, with nutmeg, sugar, etc., made hot (1789).

Hot-house. A brothel, stew (q.v.) orig. a public bath (1596).

Hot-place. Hell, a tropical climate.

Hot-pot. Ale and brandy made hot (*Grose*).

Hot-potato. *To drop like a hot potato*, to abandon (a pursuit, a person, a thing) with alacrity.

Hot-stomach. *So hot a stomach as to burn the clothes off his back*, said of one who pawns his clothes for drink (*Lex. Bal.*).

Hottentot. 1. A stranger (East End). 2. A fool: see Buffle.

Hot-tiger. Hot-spiced ale and sherry.

Hot-water. *To be in hot-water*, to be in trouble, in difficulties, worried (1846).

Hound (King's College, Cambridge Univ.). 1. An undergraduate not on the foundation, nearly the same as a sizar. 2. A mean, contemptible fellow, scoundrel, filthy sneak.

Hounslow-heath. The teeth: see Grinders: also Hampstead-heath.

Houri of Fleet Street. A prostitute.

House. An audience. *To bring down the house*, to elicit a general burst of applause: Fr., *avoir sa côtelette boire du lait* (1823). *The House*, (1) The Stock Exchange; (2) The House of Commons; (3) Christ Church, Oxford. *House* (or *apartments*) *to let*, a widow (*Lex. Bal.*). *Father of the House*, the oldest elected member of the House of Commons. *House that Jack built*, a prison: see Cage. *Like a house on fire*, quickly, with energy: see Like. *Safe as houses*, perfectly safe.

House-bit (or **keeper**, or **piece**). A servant-mistress.

House-dove. A stay-at-home.

Household-brigade. *To join the household brigade*, to marry, get spliced (q.v.).

House of Civil Reception. A brothel: see Nanny-shop (*Grose*).

House of Commons (or **House of Office**). A W.C.: see Mrs. Jones.

House-tailor. An upholsterer (1696).

Housewife (**Huswife**, or **Hussy**). Primarily, a house-keeper. Hence (*a*) a domestic servant; (*b*) a wanton or a gad-about wench; and (*c*) a comic endearment. Hence, too, *Housewifery* and *Housewife's tricks*, wantonness (1508).

Housey (Christ's Hospital). Belonging to the Hospital.

Housle (Winchester College). To hustle.

Hoveller. A beach-thief.

How. *How came you so?* drunk: see Screwed (1824). *How much?* What do you say? What do you mean? What price?—a general request for explanations. *How are you off for soap*, a street catch (1833). *How the blazes*; see Blazes. *How is that for high*: see High. *How's your poor feet*, a street catch: orig. a dovetail to a gag. *How'll you have it*, an invitation to drink: see Drinks. *How we apples swim*, (1) said in derision of a parvenu, of a person in better company than he (or she) has any right to keep, or of a pretender to honour or credit he (or she) does not deserve; also (2) what a good time we're having!

Howard's Garbage. The Nineteenth Foot, now the Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment): also Green Howards.

Howard's Greens. The Twenty-fourth foot: now the South Wales Borderers: from its facings and its Colonel's name, 1717-37.

How-do-you-do. A to-do, a kettle of fish, a pass (1835).

Howler. An unblushing falsehood, enormous blunder, serious accident: and so forth. *To come* (or *go*) *a howler*, to come to grief, run amuck.

Howling. A general intensitive e.g. *Howling swell*, a man in the extreme of fashion; *howling-lie*, a gross falsehood; *howling-bags*, trousers extravagant in cut or pattern; *howling-cad*, etc.

Hoxter. 1. An inside pocket (1834). 2. (Royal Military Academy). Extra drill: corruption of extra: Fr., *bal.*

Hoys. See Hoist.

Hoyt. See Hoit.

Hub. 1. Boston: also *Hub of the Universe*; the description is Oliver Wendell Holmes's: since extended to other centres or chief cities. 2. A husband: see Hubby.

Hubble-bubble. 1. A confused noise made by a talkative person, who speaks so quick that it is difficult to understand what he says or means

(*Dyche*). A hubble-bubble fellow, a man of confused ideas, or one thick of speech, whose words sound like water bubbling out of a bottle (*Lex. Bal.*). 2. A hookah, a pipe by which the smoke is passed through water (1811).

Hubble-de-shuff. Confusedly.

Hubbub. 1. A noise in the streets made by the rabble (*B. E.*). 2. A noise, riot, or disturbance (*Grose*).

Hubby (or **Hub**). A husband (1798).

Huck. To chaffer, bargain (1577).

Huckleberry. *Above one's huckleberry* (*bend*, or *hook*), beyond one's ability, out of one's reach: see Bend (1848).

Huckle-my-but. Beer, egg, and brandy made hot (*Grose*).

Huckster. 1. A retailer of small goods, pedlar (1696). 2. A mean trickster (1696). *In huckster's hands*, At a desperate pass, or condition, or in a fair way to be lost (*B. E.*).

Hucksum (**Huckle, Huckle-bone,** or **Huck-bone**). The hip (1508).

Hue. 'The Cove was Hued in the Naskin, the Rogue was severely Lasht in Bridewel' (*B. E.*).

Huey. A town or village.

Huff. 1. An outburst of temper, peevishness, offence at some real or imaginary wrong or slight. Hence, *to get* (or *take*) *the huff*, to fly into a passion (1599). 2. A bully, Hector (q.v.), sharper: also Captain Huff (1569). 3. A dodge, trick. 4. A term in the game of draughts: the penalty for not taking a piece. 5. (Winchester College): see Huff-cap. As verb, (1) to bluster, bounce, swagger (1607); (2) to anger, cheek (q.v)., get angered (1708). As intj., an exclamation of defiance: also Huffa and Huffa-gallant; the last probably the oldest form of the word (1510). *To stand the huff*, to stand the reckoning (*Lex. Bal.*). Also *huffy*, easily offended; *huffed*, annoyed; *huffily*, testily, in a tantrum.

Huff-'cap (or **Huff**). 1. Strong ale: from inducing people to set their caps in a bold and huffing style. (*Nares*) (1579). 2. A swaggering bully, Hector (q.v.) (1596). As adj., swaggering, blustering, rousing (1597).

Huffer. A swaggerer.

Huffle. To shift, hesitate, waver.

Huff-snuff. A person apt to take offence (1592).

Huftie-tuftie. Swaggering, gallant (1596).

Hug. Garrotting (q.v.): also verbally and *to put on the hug*. *To hug brown bess* (q.v.); *to hug the gunner's daughter*, to cuddle a gun for punishment; *to hug the ground*, to fall, or be hit off one's legs; *to give the hug* (pugilists), to close with and grapple the body; *to hug the shore* (*bank*, or *wall*), to keep close to; *Cornish hug*, a hold in wrestling; *to hug a belief* (*delusion*, or *thought*), to cherish; *to hug one's chains*, to delight in captivity.

Hugger-mugger. Muddle, confusion. As adj., closely or by stealth, under-board: *To eat so*, that is, to eat by one's self (*B. E.*). As adj., confused, disorderly, hap-hazard, hand-to-mouth (q.v.). As verb, to meet by stealth, lay heads together. *In hugger-mugger*, in secret (1565).

Hugging. Garrotting (q.v.).

Hugsome. Attractive.

Hulk (**Hulky**, or **Hulking**). A fat person, a big lout: generally, great hulk of a fellow (1631). As verb, to hang about, to Mooch (q.v.).

Hull-cheese. 'Hull-cheese is much like a loafe out of a brewers basket, it is composed of two simples, mault and water, in one compound, and is cousin germane to the mightiest ale in England' (*John Taylor*).

Hulverhead (**Hulverheaded**). A fool: see Buffle.

Hum. 1. A kind of strong liquor: probably a mixture of beer and spirits, but also applied to old, mellow, and very strong beer: also Hum-cap (1616). 2. A trick, delusion, cheat, a lie (1756). 3. A church-goer. As verb, (1) to cheat, bamboozle, quiz (q.v.) (1762); (2) to mumble. *To hum and haw*, to hesitate, raise objections (1469). *To make things hum*, to force the pace, keep moving. *To hum around*, to call to account, call over the coals (q.v.).

Human. A human being.

Humber-keels. See Billy-boy.

Humble Pie. *To eat humble pie*, to submit, apologise, knock under: see Cave in.

Hum-box. 1. A pulpit (1725). English synonyms: autem, cackle tub, clack loft, cowards' castle, gospel mill (also a church), wood. 2. An auctioneer's rostrum.

Humbox Patterer. A parson, devil-dodger, sky-pilot.

Humbug. 1. A hoax, imposture, swindle (1735). 2. Deceit, pretence, affection. 3. A cheat, impostor, pretender: also (old), *hummer* (1783). As verb, to hoax, swindle, cajole (1751). Hence, *humbugging*, hoaxing, swindling; *humbugable*, gullible; *humbuggery*, deception, imposture; *humbugger*, cheat, hoaxer (1783).

Humdrum. 1. A tiresome dullard, steady-going, common-place person (1596). 2. Monotony, tameness, dullness (1823). 3. The same as *humbug*, (1596). 4. A wife; also a husband. As adj., dull, tame, common-place, monotonous (1702).

Humdurgeon. 1. An imaginary illness (*Grose*). 2. Needless noise, ado about nothing (1815).

Humdurgeoned. Annoyed.

Humguffin. A hobgoblin: also a derisive address.

Humgumptious. A knowing sort of humbug is humgumptious (*Bee*).

Hummer. 1. Anything of magnitude or note (1696): spec. 2. a man or woman of notable parts, high stepper (q.v.), good goer (q.v.): cf. Rustler. 3. See Humbug.

Humming. Strong — applied to drink; brisk—applied to trade; hard — applied to blows. *Humming October*, the specially strong brew from the new season's hops, stingo (q.v.) (1696).

Hump. 1. To spoil, botch, do for. 2. To shoulder and carry: e.g. *to hump one's swag*, to shoulder one's kit. *To hump oneself*, to stir, prepare for attack, fancy oneself (1847). *To get* (or *have*) *the hump*, to be despondent, hurt, put out, down in the mouth (q.v.): also *to have the hump up* (or *on*) (1599).

Humpey. A pile of buffalo robes.

Humphrey. A coat with pocket holes but no pockets (*Matsell*). *To dine with Duke Humphrey*: see Dine, Sir Thomas Gresham, and Knights (1592).

Humpty-dumpty. 1. A short and thick-set person, grundy (q.v.), hunchback: see Forty-guts. 2. Ale boiled with brandy (1696). As adj. and adv., short and thick, all of a heap, all together.

Hum-strum. A musical instrument made of a mop-stick, a bladder, and some packthread, thence also called bladder and string, and hurdy gurdy; it is played on like a violin, which is sometimes ludicrously called a humstrum; sometimes instead of a bladder a tin canister is used (*Grose*).

Hunch. To jostle, shove, squeeze (1696).

Hung. *To be hung up*, to come to a standstill, be in a fix.

Hungarian. 1. A hungry man, a rare pecker (q.v.) (1608). 2. A freebooter.

Hunk. *To be* (or *get*) *hunk* or *all hunk*, (1) to hit a mark, achieve an object, be safe. Also (2) to scheme: from Dutch *honk*, goal or home.

Hunker (or Old Hunker). In New York (1844) a Conservative Democrat, as opposed to the Young Democracy or Barn-burners (q.v.). Hence, an anti-progressive in politics.

Hunks. A miser, mean, sordid fellow, curmudgeon.

Hunky. Good, jolly: a general superlative: also *Hunkidorum*.

Hunt. To decoy a pigeon (q.v.) to the tables. Hence *hunting*, card-sharping, flat-catching (q.v.) (1696). *To hunt for soft spots*, to make oneself comfortable, seek one's ease. *To hunt grass*, to be knocked down, grassed (q.v.): also, to be puzzled, dumfoundered. *To hunt leather*, to field at cricket. *To hunt the dummy*, to steal pocket books. *To hunt the squirrel*, an amusement practised by post boys and stage-coachmen, which consists in following a one-horse chaise, and driving it before them, passing close to it so as to brush the wheel, and by other means terrifying any woman or person that may be in it: a man whose turn comes for him to drink, before he has emptied his former glass, is said to be hunted (*Grose*). *In* (or *out of*) *the hunt*, having a chance (or none); *in* (or *out*) *of the swim* (q.v.), admitted to (or outside) a circle or society.

Hunt-about. 1. A prying gossip. 2. A street walker.

Hunt-counter. A beggar (1598).

Hunters. *Pitching the hunters*, the three sticks a penny, with snuff-boxes stuck upon sticks; if you throw your stick, and they fall out of the hole, you are entitled to what you knock off (*Lond. Lab.*).

Hurly-burly. A commotion, bustle, uproar (1509).

Hurra's-nest. The utmost confusion, everything topsy-turvy, sixes-and-sevens.

Hurrah in Hell. *Not to care a single hurrah in hell*, to be absolutely indifferent.

Hurry. A quick passage on the violin, or a roll on the drum, leading to a climax in the representation.

Hurry-durry. Rough, boisterous, impatient of counsel or control (1677).

Hurrygraph. A hastily written letter.

Husband's - boat. The Saturday boat to Margate during the summer season (1867).

Husband's-tea. Weak-tea, water bewitched (q.v.).

Hush. To kill (*Grose*).

Hush - money. Money paid for silence, to quash a case, or stay a witness, a bribe, blackmail (1709).

Hush-shop (or crib). An unlicensed tavern.

Husky (Winchester College). Gooseberry fool with the husks in it: obsolete (*Notions*). As adj., stout, well built.

Husky-lour. A guinea: see Rhino (1696).

Hussy. A corruption of housewife (q.v.).

Hustle. To bestir oneself, go to work with vigour and energy: also *to hustle around*.

Hustler. An active man or woman, a hummer (q.v.), rustler (q.v.).

Hutch. A place of residence or employment, diggings (q.v.).

Hutter. See Hatter.

Huxter. Money: also Hoxter: see Rhino.

Huzzy (or **Huzzie**). A case: of needles, pins, scissors, bodkins, etc., a housewife's companion.

Hypernese. A dialect of school cryptoëpy. When spoken fast it defies an outsider's curiosity. If two consonants commence a syllable, the former is dropped, and W substituted: thus breeches would be *wareechepes.* If P commences a syllable, G is interpolated: thus penny would be *pegennepy* . . . . Bishop Wilkins described it, without mentioning it as a novelty, a couple of centuries ago.

Hyphenated American. A naturalised citizen, as German - Americans, Irish-Americans, and the like (*Norton*).

Hypocrite. A pillow slip or sham.

Hyps (or **Hypo**). The blue devils (q.v.) (1710).

Ice. *A big thing on ice*, a profitable venture, good thing; also B.T.I.

Icken. Oak. *Icken-baum*, oak-tree: from the German (*Matsell*).

Ictus. A lawyer: see Green-bag. [A corruption of *juris consultas*].

Idea-pot (or box). The head: see Crumpet (*Grose*).

Identical. Generally *the identical*, the self-same person, point, argument, or action (1664).

I desire. A fire.

Ignoramus. A stupid and unlettered person, male or female: first applied to ignorant lawyers: from Latin, we ignore (it), the endorsement by which a grand jury threw out a bill (1569).

Ignoramus-jury. A Grand Jury. (1696).

Ikey. A Jew: specifically a Jew fence (q.v.): a corruption of Isaac: also Ikey Mo. As adj., smart, fly (q.v.), knowing (q.v.).

Ile. See Oil.

Ill. Vicious, unpleasant, ill-tempered: cf. Religious. Also *ill for*, having a vicious propensity for anything (*Jamieson*): cf. Neither is it ill air only that makes an ill seat, but ill ways, ill markets, and ill neighbours (*Bacon*). *To do ill to*, to wrong a woman.

Illegitimate. 1. A counterfeit sovereign; *young illegitimate*, a half sovereign (*Bee*). 2. A low grade costermonger. As adj., applied to steeple-chasing or hurdle - racing, as distinguished from work on the flat.

Ill-fortune. Ninepence: also *the picture of ill-luck* (*B. E.*).

Illuminate. To interline with a translation (1856).

Illustrated Clothes. See Historical Shirt.

I'm-afloat. 1. A boat. 2. A coat: see Capella.

Image. An affectionate reproof: e.g. Come out you little image!

Immense. A general superlative: cf. Awful, Bloody, etc. (1771).

Immensikoff. A fur-lined overcoat: from the burden of a song, The Shoreditch Toff, sung (*c.* 1868) by the late Arthur Lloyd, who described himself as Immensikoff, and wore an upper garment heavily trimmed with fur.

Immortals. The Seventy-Sixth Foot: now the second battalion of the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment). [Most of its men were wounded, but escaped being killed, in India in 1806.] Also the Pigs, and The Old Seven and Sixpennies.

Imp. A mischievous brat, a small or minor devil: originally a child. [*Trench*: there are epitaphs extant commencing, Here lies that noble imp; and Lord Cromwell, writing to Henry VIII., speaks of That noble imp your son.] 2. A man who gets up cases for a devil (q.v.).

Imperence. Impertinence, impudence, cheek (q.v.). Also, inferentially, an impudent person; e.g. What's your imperence about? (1766).

Imperial. A tuft of hair worn on the lower lip. [It was introduced by the Emperor Napoleon III.] See Goatee.

Implement (old). A Tool, a Property, or Fool easily engaged in any (tho' difficult or Dangerous) Enterprise (*B. E.*).

Importance. A wife: also comfortable importance (q.v.) (1647).

Impost-taker. A gambler's and blackleg's money-lender, sixty-per-cent. (q.v.) (1696).

Improvement. That part of a sermon which enforces and applies to everyday life the doctrine previously set forth, the application.

Impure. A wanton (1511).

In. A person in, or holding an office; specifically (in politics), a member of the party in office: cf. Out (1768). As adv., various: cricketers, at the wickets; general, in season; also, on an equality with, sharing, or intimate with, or fashionable; political, in office; thieves', in prison; or quodded (q.v.). *To be in* (or *in it*) *with one*, (1) to be even with, on guard against; (2) to be on intimate terms (or in partnership) with, in the swim (q.v.). *To be in for it*, (1) to be in trouble; generally to be certain to receive, suffer, or do (something) (1668); (2) To be with child. *In for the plate*, venereally infected. *For all there's in it*, to the utmost capacity (of persons and things). *To play one's hand for all there's in it*, to use fair means or foul to attain an object. *To get it in for one*, to remember to one's disadvantage. For combinations see Altitudes, Arms of Morpheus, Bad way, Blues, Bottom of the bag, Buff, Bunch, Cart, Click, Clover, Crack, Crook, Cups, Dead earnest, Difficulty, Hole, Jiffy, Jug, Kish, Know, Lavender, Limbo, Liquor, Lurch, Patter, Pound, Print, Queer Street, Rags, Running, Shape, Shell, Skiffle, Slash, State of Nature, Straw, String, Suds, Sun, Swim, Tin-pot way, Town, Twinkling, Water, Wind, Wrong box, etc.

In-and-out. The detail or intricacies of a matter; generally in pl., e.g. To know all the ins-and-outs of a matter. As adv., unequal, variable: applied to the performances of a horse which runs well one day, and on another not.

Inch. To encroach, move slowly (1696).

Incog. 1. Unknown, in disguise: also as subs. [An abbreviation of *incognito*.] (1696). 2. Drunk: i.e. disguised in liquor: see Screwed (1823).

Incognita. A high-class prostitute, anonyma (q.v.).

Incumbrance. In pl., children.

Indentures. *To make indentures*, to stagger with drink (1622).

Indescribables. Trousers: see Kicks (1835).

Index. The face, dial (q.v.), phiz (q.v.).

Indian. To prowl about, live like an Indian.

Indian-gift. An inadequate return or exchange, a sprat for a whale. *Indian giver*, one who takes back a gift.

India-wipe. A silk handkerchief (*Grose*).

Indies. See Black Indies.

Indispensables. Trousers: see Kicks.

Indorse. To cudgel, lay cane on Abel (*Grose*).

Ineffable. In pl., trousers; see Kicks.

Inexplicables. Trousers: see Kicks.

Inexpressibles. Trousers: see Kicks (1790).

Infant. See Woolwich Infant.

Infantry. Children: Fr., *entrer dans l'infanterie*, to fall with child (1623). *Light infantry*, fleas: cf. Heavy dragoons.

Infare (or **Infair**). An installation with ceremony and rejoicing: house-warming: more particularly an entertainment given by a newly married couple on their return from the honeymoon (1375).

Inferior (Winchester College). Any member of the School not a Præfect (q.v.).

Infernal. An intensitive: detestable, fit only for hell: cf. Awful, Bloody (1602).

Infra - dig (Winchester College). Scornful, proud: e.g. He sported infra-dig duck, or I am infra-dig to it.

Ingle. An intimate, dear friend. As verb, to caress, to make much of (1599).

Ingler. A fraudulent horse-dealer (1825).

Ingotted. Rich, warm (q.v.), well-ballasted (q.v.).

Iniquity Office. A registry office.

Ingun. *To get upon one's ingun*, to get angry, turn savage.

Ink. *To sling ink*, to make a business of writing: see Ink-slinger.

Inkhorn (or **Ink-pot**). Pedantic, dry, smelling of the lamp (1579).

Inkle. To warn, give notice, hint at, disclose (1340).

Inkle-weaver. A close companion, chum (q.v.) (1725).

Ink-slinger (**Inkspiller**, or **Ink-waster**). 1. A journalist, author, brother of the quill (q.v.): generally in contempt of a raw hand: Fr., *marchand de lignes*.

Ink-slinging. Writing for the press: Fr., *scribouillage*.

Inky. Used evasively: e.g. of a question to which a direct answer is undesirable or inconvenient.

Inlaid (or **Well-inlaid**). In easy circumstances, with well-lined pockets, warm (q.v.) (1696).

Innards. The stomach: also Inwards (1602). *To fill one's innards*, to eat.

Inner-man. The appetite.

Innings. A turn, spell, chance: from cricket (1836). *To have a good innings*, to be fortunate: especially in money matters. *To have a long innings*, to die in the fulness of years.

Innocent. 1. A simpleton, idiot (1598): see Buffle. 2. A corpse, stiff (q.v.). 3. A convict. *The murder* (*slaughter*, or *massacre*) *of the innocents*, the abandonment, towards the end of a session, of measures whether introduced by the Government or by private members, when they would have no chance of passing (1859).

Innominables. Breeches, trousers, inexpressibles: see Kicks.

Inside. A passenger riding inside a vehicle: see Outside (1816). As adj. and adv., trustworthy, pertinent, in touch with, bottom (q.v.). *To know the inside of everything*, to be well informed. *Inside of*, within the limit, in less time than. *To take the inside out of* (a glass, a book, etc.), to empty, gut (q.v.) (1843). *To be on* (or *to have*) *the inside track*, to be on the safe side, at a point of vantage, or (of a subject) to understand thoroughly. *Inside and outside!* A toast.

Insider. 1. One in the know (q.v.). 2. One who has some special advantage, as in a business enterprise.

Inside-lining. Food.

Inside-squatter. A settler within the bounds of civilisation: see Outside Squatter.

Inspector of Pavements. 1. A man in the pillory (1821). 2. A man out of work: also *inspector of public buildings*: Fr., *Inspecteur de monuments publiques*.

Inspire. To impart a tone, possibly official, to the subject matter of a newspaper or magazine article.

Inspired. 1. Drunk: see Screwed. 2. See Inspire.

Institution. A practice, idea, invention, established custom or usage (1851).

Int. A sharper (1621).

Intense. Serious, soulful, æsthetic (q.v.); yearnest (q.v.).

Intimate. A shirt.

Interesting condition (or **situation**). *To be in a*, to be with child (1748).

Interfere. To maltreat.

Interloper. An unlicensed trader, smuggler, one who interferes, or intercepts unwarrantably. Also, 'Hangers on, retainers to, or dependers upon other folks; also Medlers and Busybodies, intruders into other Men's Professions, and those that intercept the trade of a Company, being not legally authorised' (*B. E.*).

Into. *To be into a man*, to pitch into him, fight him. As prep., short of, wanting: e.g. I thought I did pretty well delivering all the load into one box (i.e. all but one box).

Invite. An invitation (1615).

Inward. 1. An intimate (1603). 2. In pl., see Innards.

Irish. Irish whisky, Fenian (q.v.). *To get one's Irish up*, to get angry: also *to get one's dutch* (or, in America, *Indian*) *up*. As adj., an epithet of contempt and derogation: as, *Irish-arms* (or *legs*), thick legs. *No Irish need apply*, phr. (American). You're not wanted, Git! (q.v.). *You're Irish*, said of any one talking unintelligibly.

Irish-apricot (apple, or lemon). A potato: see Murphy (*Grose*).

Irish-assurance. A bold, forward behaviour; it is said a dipping in the Shannon annihilates bashfulness (*Grose*).

Irish-beauty. A woman with two black eyes (*Grose*).

Irish-evidence. A false witness (*Grose*).

Irishman's-dinner. A fast.

Irishman's-harvest. The orange season.

Irishman's-hurricane. A dead calm.

Irishman's-reef. The head of a sail tied up (*Clark Russell*).

Irish-pennants. Fag ends of rope, rope-yarns, etc.

Irish-rifle. A small tooth-comb.

Irish-rise (or promotion). A reduction in position or pay.

Irish-theatre. A guard room or lock-up in barracks: Fr., *maison de campagne*.

Irish-toyle. 'The Twelfth Order of Canters: also Rogues carrying Pinns. Points, Laces, and such like Wares, and under pretence of selling them, commit Thefts and Robberies' (*B. E.*),

Irish-wedding. The emptying of a cesspool: see Goldfinder. *To have danced at an Irish wedding*, to have got two black eyes.

Iron. 1. Money: see Rhino (*Grose*). 2. Courage. 3. In pl., fetters: see Darbies. As verb, to flatter (1823). *Bad iron*, failure, misadventure, bad luck. *To polish the king's iron with one's eyebrow*, to look out of grated or prison windows (*Grose*). *To have many irons in the fire* (or *on the anvil*), to carry out many projects at the same time, especially schemes for making money (1593).

Ironbark. See Ironclad.

Iron-bound. 1. Laced with metal. *Iron-bound hat*, a silver laced hat (*Grose*). 2. A hard-baked pie.

Ironclad. 1. A paragon: as a severely chaste girl, popular play, song, horse, etc. 2. An iron-cased watch. As adj., strong, hard, unyielding: also *Ironbark* (q.v.).

Iron-cow. See Cow.

Iron-doublet. 1. A prison: see Cage. 2. Innocence.

Iron-horse. 1. A locomotive. 2. A tricycle or bicycle.

Ironmonger's-shop. *To keep an ironmonger's shop by the side of a common, where the sheriff sets one up*, to be hanged in chains: see Ladder (*Grose*).

Iron-rations. Tinned meat: specifically boiled salt-beef: see Bully-beef.

Iron-toothpick. A sword, poker (q.v.).

Irrigate. To drink, liquor up: also *to irrigate one's canal* (1708).

Isabella. An umbrella, mushroom (q.v.).

Island. *To drink out of the island*, 'he drank out of the bottle till he saw the island: the *island* is the rising bottom of a wine bottle, which appears like an *island* in the centre, before the bottle is quite empty.' (*Lex. Bal.*).

Island of Bermuda. See Bermudas.

Isle-of-fling. A coat: see Capella.

Issues. *To pool one's issues*, to work in unison, come to an understanding for mutual advantage.

Isthmus-of-Suez. The bridge at St. John's College, Cambridge, leading from the grounds to one of the Courts familiarly known as the Bridge of Sighs: also The Bridge of Grunts. [From its slight similarity to the Venetian example *Sues*, swine, in punning reference to the Johnian hogs (q.v.): see Crackle and Hog.

I subscribe. A response to an invitation to drink: see Drinks.

I suppose. The nose: see Conk.

It. A chamber-pot. English synonyms: bishop, chantie (Scots'), jerry, jordan, jerker, jockum-gage, lagging-gage, looking-glass, member-mug, mingo, piss-pot, po, smoker, smoke-spell, tea-voider, thunder-mug, twiss.

Itchland (or Scratchland). 1. Wales (*B. E.* 1690); 2. Scotland (*New Cant Dict.*). *Itchlander*, a Scot.

Itching-palm. See Palm.

Item. A hint, piece of news: (in gaming) a signal from a confederate; (American journalist) a paragraph of news; (thieves') a warning (1650).

Ivories. 1. The teeth: see Grinders (1782). 2. Dice: also (cards') checks and counters. English synonyms (for both genuine and false pieces), bones, cogs, fulhams, devil's teeth, devil's bones, gourds, rattlers, tats, high men, low men, uphills. 3. Billiard balls. *To flash the ivories*, (1) to show the teeth (*Grose*); (2), to be dissected or anatomised after execution, the skeleton being taken to the College of Surgeons; prison, (3) to be hanged. *To sluice* (*wash* or *rince*) *one's ivories*, to drink: see Lush.

Ivory-box. The mouth: see Potato-trap.

Ivory-Carpenter. A dentist, snag-catcher (q.v.).

Ivory-thumper (or **Spanker**). A pianist.

Ivy-bush. *Like an owl in an ivy bush*, a simile for a meagre, or weazle-faced man, with a large wig, or very bushy hair (*Grose*).

Jab (or **Job**). A prod, poke, stab. As verb, to handle harshly, hustle, prod, poke, stab (with a pointed weapon).

Jabber. Chatter, incoherent or inarticulate and unintelligible speech (as a foreign language heard by one ignorant of it) (1706). As verb, to Talk thick and fast, as great Praters do, or to Chatter, like a Magpye (*B. E.*) (1548); to speak a foreign language (*Grose*). Hence, *jabberer*, one who jabbers; *jabbering*, nonsense, indistinct and rapid speech, patter (q.v.); also *jabberment*; *jabberingly*, indistinctly, nonsensically.

Jabbernowl. See Jobbernowl.

Jabers (or **Jabez**). *Be* (or *by*) *jabers* (or *jabez*), an oath (1821).

Jack. 1. A farthing; also (American thieves'), a small coin (1690). 2. The small bowl aimed at in the game of bowls (1605). 3. A contrivance to assist a person in taking off his boots, a bootjack (1696). 4. The knave in any of the four suits in a pack of cards: Fr., *galuchet*, *larbin savonné*, *mistigris* (1662). 5. A post-chaise (*Grose*). 6. A pitcher varying in capacity (generally made of leather), blackjack (q.v.) (1592). 7. A Jacobite. 8. A term of contempt. [The usage is common in most modern languages: e.g. Fr., *Jean-guêtré*, peasant, *Jean-bête*, cabbage-head, *Jean-fesse* or *Jean-foutre*, scamp; It., *Gianni*, whence Zany; Sp., *Juan*, as *bobo Juan*, foolish John. See also many combinations—*To play the Jack*, to act the fool (or goat, q.v.); *Cheap Jack*, a peddling tradesman; *Jack-fool* (*Chaucer*), a thundering idiot; *Jack-friar*, a hedge-priest (q.v.); *Jack-slave*, a vulgarian; *Jack-brag*, a boaster; *Jack-snip*, a botching tailor; *Jack-straw*, a low-born rebel; *Jack-sprat*, a mannikin; *skip-jack*, an upstart; *Jack-at-warts*, a little conceited fellow; *Jack-in-the-box*, the sacrament; *Jack-upaland* (*Chaucer*), a peasant. 9. A counter resembling in size and appearance a sovereign; also Half-jacks. [They are all made in Birmingham, and are of the size and colour of the genuine sovereigns and half-sovereigns . . . . Each presents a profile of the Queen; but instead of the superscription Victoria Dei Gratia of the true sovereign, the jack has Victoria Regina. On the reverse, in the place of the Britanniarum Regina Fid. Def. surrounding the royal arms and crowns is a device (intended for an imitation of St. George and the Dragon) representing a soldier on horseback—the horse having three legs elevated from the ground, while a drawn sword fills the right hand of the equestrian, and a crown adorns his head. The superscription is, To Hanover, and the rider seems to be sociably accompanied by a dragon. Round the Queen's head on the half jack is Victoria, Queen of Great Britain, and on the reverse the Prince of Wales's feather, with the legend

The Prince of Wales's Model Half Sovereign.] 10. (*a*) A sailor: also Jack-tar, English-jack, and Spanish-jack; (*b*) an attendant at a boathouse; also Jack-in-the-water (q.v.) (1788). 11. A stranger. 12. A male sweetheart: cf. Gill (1500). 13. The Union Jack, the rag (q.v.) (1652). 14. A seal: see Jark. 15. A policeman: see Copper. 16. See Jakes. 17. A male: as in the compounds *jack-hare*, *jack-crow*, *jack-ass*, *jack-rabbit*, etc. (1563). 18. An ape. 19. A peasant (1513). As verb, (1) to brand an unmarked yearling or maverick (q.v.).; (2) to run away quickly: see Bunk. Phrases: *To lay on the jack*, to thrash soundly, scold in good round terms, baste, tan (1557); *to make one's jack*, to succeed, gain one's point: from the game of faro; *to be coppered on the jack*, to fail, lose one's point: from the game of faro; *to play the jack*, to play the rogue (1609); *to be upon their jacks*, to have an advantage; *every man jack* (or *every jack-rag*), every one without exception (1845); *Jack-at-a-pinch*, a person employed in an emergency, stop-gap; specifically, a clergyman who has no cure, but on occasion officiates for a fee: cf. Guinea-pig (1696); *Jack-in-a* (or-*the*)-*box*, (1) a sharper, cheat; (2) a child's toy, consisting of a box out of which, on raising the lid, a figure springs (1570); (3) a game in which some article, of more or less value, is placed on the top of a stick standing in a hole, and thrown at with sticks: if the article be hit so as to fall clear of the hole, the thrower takes it; (4) a small but powerful kind of screw, used by burglars to open safes (1848); (5) see Jack-in-the-cellar; (6) a street-pedlar (1696); (7) the sacrament; *Jack-in office*, an over-bearing petty official, upstart, Jack-in-the-pulpit (q.v.) (1696); *Jack-in-the-cellar* (or *box*), a child in the womb, Hans-en-kelder (q.v.) (1765); *Jack-in-the-dust*, a steward's mate; *Jack-in-the-green*, a chimney-sweep enclosed in a portable framework of boughs for the processions on the first of May: now mainly a thing of the past; *Jack-in-the-pulpit*, a pretender, upstart, Jack-in-office (q.v.); *Jack-in-the-water*, an odd or handy man at a boat-house or landing stage: also Jack (q.v., sense 10); *Jack-of-all-trades*, one who can (or pretends to be able to) turn his hand to any business: now usually in contempt, as Jack-of-all-trades and master of none (1633); *Jack-of-legs*, (1) an extra tall man, lamp-post (q.v.); (2) a large clasp knife: see Jocteleg; *Jack-on-both-sides*, a neutral; also one who hunts with the hounds and runs with the hare, a fence-rider (q.v.) (1594); *Jack-out-of-doors*, a vagrant (1634); *Jack-out-of-office*, a discharged official: in derision (1592); *Jack-the-painter*, a much adulterated green tea used in the bush; *Jack-the-slipper*, the treadmill, wheel of life (q.v.); *to jack the interim*, to be remanded; *to jack up*, to clinch, abandon, chuck (q.v.); *jacked-up*, ruined, done for.

Jack Adams. A fool: see Buffle (1696).

Jack-a-dandy. 1. A little fop, coxcomb, dandiprat (q.v.): also *Jack Dandy* (1632). 2. Brandy.

Jack-a-green. See Jack-in-the-green, under Jack.

Jack-a-lent. (1) A dapperling, dwarf; and (2) a simpleton: also Jack-o'-lent (1596).

Jackanapes. An absurd fop, whipper-snapper: a general term of reproach. *Jackanapes-coat*, a dandy-coat (*Pepys*). [Originally, no doubt, a gaudy-suited and performing ape (the word is still good Scots for a monkey; cf. Scott, *Redgauntlet*); and, hence, by implication, anybody at once ugly (or diminutive), showy, and impudent. Also a *Jack-of-apes* was a man who exhibited performing apes] (1529).

Jackaroo. A fresh arrival from England, new chum (q.v.).

Jackass. A stupid ignoramus: see Buffle. Also *Jackassism*, stupidity.

Jackass-Frigate. A small slow-sailing frigate (1833).

Jack-cove. A mean low fellow, snide (q.v.) (*Matsell*).

Jack (or Tom) Drum's Entertainment. Ill-treatment, ignominious dismissal: cf. Stafford law.

Jacked. Spavined, lamed.

Jackeen (or Dublin Jackeen). A Dublin 'Arry (q.v.).

Jacken-closer. A seal.

Jackery. A favoured station hand (Australian).

Jacket. 1. The skin of an un-pared potato: generally in phrase boiled in their jackets. 2. A pinafore roundabout (q.v.). 3. A folded docket-paper. As verb, (1) to cheat, swindle, betray; (2) to thrash, beat: also *to trim* (*dust* or *lace*) *one's jacket* (1704); (3) to enclose (a document) after scheduling within it other papers relating to the same subject, docket; (4) to denote, point out. *To give a red-laced jacket*, to flog. *To line one's jacket*, to eat or drink, fill one's stomach (1611). *Pull down your jacket* (or *vest*), keep cool! don't get excited! hold your hair on (q.v.). *To send in one's jacket*, to resign, deliver up one's badge of office.

Jacketing. A thrashing, reprimand.

Jacket-reverser. A turncoat.

Jackey. Gin: see Drinks.

Jack Frost. A popular personification of frost: cf. John Fog and Tommy Snow.

Jack-gagger. A man living on his wife's immorality.

Jack Ketch (or **Kitch**). A hangman or executioner, a dancing-master (q.v.), topsman (q.v.). [From a famous practitioner of that name (*circa* 1663–86). Before his time the office had been filled by men whose names each and all became popular colloquialisms: e.g. Derrick (q.v.), Gregory Brandon (Gregorian tree, (q.v.), Dun (q.v.) (1676). As verb, to hang. *Jack Ketch's kitchen*, a room in Newgate, where the hangman boiled the quarters of those executed and dismembered for high treason. *Jack Ketch's pippin*, a candidate for the gallows, gallows-apple (q.v.).

Jack-leg. Blackleg.

Jackman. See Jarkman.

Jack-nasty. A sneak, sloven: cf. Jack-nasty-face (1856).

Jack-nasty-face. 1. A sailor: specifically a cook (1811). 2. A filthy or unpleasant-looking person: cf. Jack-nasty (1823).

Jack-pudding. A serving merry-andrew, low-class buffoon: Fr., *jean-pottage* (jack-soup), Germ., *Hanswurst* (jack-sausage), Dutch, *pickel-herringe*, It., *macaroni*. Hence *jack-puddinghood* (*Walpole*), buffoonery (1650).

Jack Randall. A candle: the name of a famous pugilist.

Jack Robinson. *Before one can say Jack Robinson*, instantly, in the shortest possible time, in two-two's (q.v.).

Jackrum. A marriage license (1825).

Jack-sauce. An impudent fellow, sauce-box (q.v.) (1571).

Jack's Delight. A sailor's woman.

Jack-shay. A tin quart used for boiling tea, and contrived to hold a tin pint.

Jack-sprat. An undersized man or boy (*Grose*) (1570).

Jack-straw. 1. A nobody; and, 2. a dwarf: see Hop-o'-my-thumb (1596).

Jack Tar. 1. A sailor; and, 2. a hornpipe (1781).

Jack Weight. A fat man, forty-guts (q.v.).

Jack-whore. A large, masculine, overgrown wench (*Grose*).

Jacob. 1. Rogues called Jacobs; these go with ladders in the dead of the night, and get in at the windows, one, two, or three pair, of stairs, and sometimes down the area (1753). 2. A ladder (1714). 3. A soft fellow, spooney, fool: see Buffle (*Grose*).

Jacobite. A sham shirt, dickey (q.v.); also a shirt-collar (*B. E.*).

Jacob's Ladder. A longitudinal flaw in the leg of a pair of tights; now applied to any rent of which only the woof threads are left (1859).

Jade. 1. An epithet applied to women: in contempt: originally a horse or man (*Chaucer*): especially (1) one over-ridden or foundered; and (2) unsafe and full of tricks: *jadish* (*Nashe*), malicious, tricky, untrustworthy (1560); 2. A long term of imprisonment, stretch (q.v.).

Jag. 1. A scrap, load, parcel, or lot: e.g. a fare, a catch of fish, etc. (1692). 2. A whim, fancy. 3. Intoxication: e.g. *to have a jag on*, to be drunk. 4. A drunkard, Lushington (q.v.).

Jagged. Drunk: see Screwed.

Jagger. 1. A gentleman (1859). 2. A hawker.

Jague. A ditch (1622).

Jail-bird. A prisoner, crack-halter (q.v.) (1603).

Jakes. A privy, house of office. [*Century*: The occurrence of dial. *johnny*, a jakes — also called *Mrs. Jones* by country people (*Halliwell*), with dial. *Tom*, a close-stool, suggests that jakes was originally Jake's or

Jack's, a humorous euphemism.] See Ajax (1550).

Jakes-farmer. An emptier of cesspools, goldfinder (q.v.): also *jakes-raker* (*Skelton*), and *jakes-barreller* (1596).

Jam. 1. A sweetheart, mistress: also *bit of jam*. *Lawful-jam*, a wife. 2. A certainty of winning, clear profit: also *real jam*. 3. Excellence, good luck, happiness. *Jam-up*, the pink of perfection, slap-up (q.v.), bang-up (q.v.): also real jam (1855). 4. A crush, crowd (1812). 5. A ring (*Matsell*). 6. The pool at Nap, into which each dealer pays, the winner of the next nap taking the lot. As adj., neat, smart, spruce. As verb, to hang (*Grose*).

Jamboree (or **Jimboree**). A frolic, spree (q.v.).

James. 1. A crowbar, jemmy (q.v.); Fr., *jacques* (1819). 2. A sovereign or twenty shillings (1858). 3. A sheep's head: more frequently, when uncooked, bloody jemmy (q.v.) (1827).

Jamie Moore. *To have been talking to Jamie Moore*, to be drunk: see Screwed.

Jammed. *To be jammed*, to meet with a violent death, by accident, murder, or hanging.

Jam-tart (Stock Exchange). 1. Exactly the market, buyers and sellers at the same. 2. A wife or mistress.

Jams. An abbreviation of Jim-jams (q.v.).

Jan. A purse (1610).

Jane. A sovereign: see Rhino.

Jane-of-apes. A pert forward girl; the counterpart of Jackanapes (q.v.) (1624).

Jango. Liquor (1721).

Janizary. 'The Mob sometimes so called, and Bailives, Sergeants, Followers, Yeomen, Setters, and any lewd gang depending upon others' (*B. E.*).

Jannock (or **Jonnok**). Sociable, fair, just, straightforward, conclusive. *To die jannock*, to die with bravado.

Janusmug. A go-between, intermediary between a thief and a receiver.

Jap. 1. A japanner (*Purchas*); also, 2. a Japanese.

Japan. 1. To ordain. *To be japanned*, to take orders (1756). 2. To convert. *To be japanned*, to be converted (*Matsell*). 3. To black one's boots: Fr., *sabouler* (1712).

Japanese Knife-trick. Eating with one's knife.

Jappers. See Jabers.

Jargoozle. To mislead, to lead astray, bamboozle (q.v.).

Jark. 1. A seal: It., *tirella*: also Jack (1567). 2. A watch, ticker (q.v.). 3. A safe-conduct pass, jasker (q.v.). *To jark it*, to run away: see Bunk.

Jarkman. A begging-letter writer, fabricator of false characters, counterfeit-passes, and certificates (1567).

Jarrehoe (Wellington College). A man-servant.

Jarvel. A jacket.

Jarvey (or **Jarvis**). 1. A hackney coachman (1811). 2. (old). A hackney coach (1823).

Jasey (or **Jazey**). 1. A worsted wig. *Cove with a jazey*, a judge (1789). 2. A man with an enormous quantity of hair upon his head and face (*Matsell*).

Jasker. A seal (*Matsell*).

Jason's fleece. A citizen cheated of his gold (*B. E.*).

Jaum. To discover (1821).

Jaw. Abuse, chatter, impudence, any sort of talk. *Hold* (or *stow*) *your jaw*, hold your tongue. *All jaw, like a sheep's head*, nothing but talk. English synonyms: chin-music, gab (or gob), lingo, lip, lobs, patter, snaffle (1748). As verb, to chatter, abuse, use violent language: Fr., *faire péter son grelot*, or *jouer du mirliton* (1748). *To jaw on the toby* (or *drum*), to go on the road.

Jawbation. 1. A general confab (q.v.), jawing-match: see Jobation. 2. A scolding.

Jawbone. Credit, day (q.v.). *To call one's jawbone*, to live on credit, run one's face (q.v.). English synonyms: to run one's face, to get a light, to give (or strike) on the mace, to mace it, to get on sock, (or, on the nod), to go tick.

Jawbreaker (or **Jawtwister.**) 1. A hard or many-syllabled word. *Jawbreaking*, difficult. 2. A hard punch on the whisker.

Jaw-cove. 1. An auctioneer; and, 2. a lawyer (*Matsell*).

Jawhawk. To abuse, vilify, jaw (q.v.).

Jawing- (or **Jaw-**) **tackle.** The organs of speech. *To have one's* *jawing tacks aboard* (or *to cast off one's jaw-tackle*), to talk fluently; *jawing-match*, wordy warfare (*Clark Russell*).

Jaw-smith. 1. An orator; also, 2. a loud-mouthed demagogue: originally an official orator or instructor of the Knights of Labour (*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, 1886).

Jay (or **J**). 1. A simpleton: see Buffle. *To play* (or *scalp*) *one for* (or *to flap*) *a jay*, to dupe, swindle: Fr., *rouler dans la farine*. 2. A wanton. It., *putta* (1596). 3. An amateur, a poor actor.

Jayhawker. A freebooter, a guerilla: specifically a marauder during the Kansas troubles, and since extended to all bandits.

Jeames. 1. A footman, flunkey (q.v.). 2. *The Morning Post* newspaper.

Jeff. A rope. As verb, to gamble with quads, as with dice.

Jeffy. Lightning (*Matsell*) (1859). *In a jeffey*: see Jiffey.

Jegger. See Jigger.

Jehu. A coachman, driver: from 2 Kings, ix. 20 (1660).

Jelly. A buxom, good-looking girl: also *all jelly*: cf. Scots jelly, excellent or worthy.—A jelly man well worthy of a crown.

Jelly-belly. A fat man or woman, forty-guts (q.v.).

Jem. A gold ring, rum-gem, a diamond ring (1725).

Jemima. A chamber-pot: see It.

Jeminy! (or **O Jeminy!**). See Gemini.

Jemminess. See Jemmy.

Jemmy (or **Jimmy**). 1. A short crowbar, usually made in sections screwing together: used by housebreakers: also James (q.v.) (1752). English synonyms: bess, betty, crow, dog, Jack-in-the-box, James, jilt, lord-mayor, persuading plate, pig's-foot, the stick, screw (also a skeleton key), tivvill, twist, twirl. 2. A sheep's head. 3. A shooting coat; also a great coat. 4. A term of contempt. *All jimmy*, all rot. As adj., (1) spruce, dandified. *Jemminess*, spruceness, neatness (1754); (2) a term of contempt.

Jemmy Ducks. The ship's poulterer: also Billy Ducks.

Jemmy Jessamy. A dandy: also as adj. (1753). *Jemmy and Jessamy*, a couple of lovers.

Jemmy-john. A demijohn.

Jemmy O'goblin. A sovereign: see Rhino.

Jenkins' Hen. *To die like Jenkins' hen*, to die unmarried.

Jeeny. 1. A she-ass. 2. A small crowbar; formerly betty or bess (q.v.): also a hook on the end of a stick (1696). 3. A losing hazard into the middle pocket off a ball an inch or two from the side cushion. 4. A hot-water bottle.

Jennylinda. A window.

Jeremy Diddler. A shark (q.v.), a shabby swindling borrower (1803).

Jericho. 1. A place of concealment or banishment; latterly and specifically, a prison: e.g. as in phr. *go to Jericho*, go to the devil: generically, a place of retirement: cf. 2 Sam. x. 4 and 5 (1635). 2. A water-closet. 3. A low quarter of Oxford. *From Jericho to June*, a long distance.

Jerk. 1. In pl., delirium tremens: see Gallon distemper. 2. In pl., religious paroxysm. 3. A retort, jest, quirk (1653). 4. A stripe, lash with a whip. Hence *jerking* (or *yerking*), lashing, stinging; *jerk*, verb, to lash; and *to cly the jerk*, to be whipped at the post (1557). 5. A common verb of action, especially if rapid: e.g. *To jerk the cat*, to vomit; *to jerk the tinkler*, to ring the bell; *to jerk one's juice* or *jelly* (also *to jerk off*), to masturbate; *to jerk chin music*, to talk; *to jerk a poem*, *article*, or *book*, to write; *to jerk a gybe*, to counterfeit a licence; *jerked*, or *jerked to Jesus* (American), hanged; *in a jerk*, instantly; *Dr. Jerk*, flogging schoolmaster.

Jerker. 1. A tippler: see Lushington. 2. A chamber-pot: see It. 3. A steward. 4. A prostitute.

Jerkey. A roughly-made vehicle, bone-shaker (q.v.).

Jeroboam. 1. A four-fold measure of wine, a double-magnum (q.v.): one especially apt to cause Israel to sin (see 1 Kings, xi. 28). Also, 2. a large bowl or goblet. 3. See Jerry.

Jerran. Concerned.

Jerry. 1. A chamber-pot, jeroboam: see It. 2. A hat: formerly Tom and Jerry hat (q.v.); a hard round hat; a pot-hat. 3. A celebration of the completion of indentures: Fr., *roulance*. 4. A watch, ticker (q.v.) Fr., *babillarde*. 5. A fog or mist (*De Vaux*). As adj., as an adjectival prefix Jerry is frequently used in contempt: e.g. *jerry-go-nimble*, *jerry-shop*, *jerry-builder* (all which and others see). [An abbreviation of Jeremiah: perhaps a Restoration jibe upon the Puritan use of Old Testament names; but see Jerry-builder.] As verb, to jibe, chaff with malice.

Jerry-builder. A rascally speculating builder. *Jerry built*, run up in the worst materials. [The use of the term arose in Liverpool *circa* 1830.]

Jerrycummumble. To shake, tumble about, towzle (*Grose*).

Jerry-getting (nicking or stealing). Stealing watches.

Jerry-go-nimble. 1. Diarrhœa, back-door-trot (q.v.), the collywobbles (q.v.). Formerly thorough-go-nimble (q.v.) (1734). 2. An antic, jack-pudding (q.v.).

Jerry Lynch. A pickled pig's-head.

Jerrymander. See Gerrymander.

Jerry-shop. A beer-house: also jerry.

Jerry-sneak. 1. A hen-pecked husband (1763). 2. A watch thief.

Jerry-wag. A spreester (q.v.) especially one half drunk (*Bee*). *Jerrywag-shop*, coffee shop.

Jersey-Lightning. Cider brandy.

Jerusalem. An exclamation of surprise. *Go to Jerusalem!* Go to Jericho (q.v.). *Jerusalem the golden*, Brighton cf. Holy of Holies.

Jerusalem-pony. 1. An ass (1842). 2. A needy clergyman helping for hire.

Jessamy. See Jemmy Jessamy. (1684).

Jesse (Jessie, or Jessy). *To give* (or *raise*) *jesse*, to rate with vigour, thrash, baste, tan.

Jester. 1. A general term of banter for a man, joker (q.v.), nice 'un (q.v.). 2. See Joker.

Jesuit. A graduate or undergraduate of Jesus College, Cambridge (1771).

Jet. A lawyer: see Greenbag. *Autem-jet*, a parson. As verb, to strut, walk pompously: see Jetter (1557).

Jetter. A pompous man, strut-noddy (q.v.): see Jet (1510).

Jew. A cheat, hard bargainer, sharking usurer (1659). As verb, to drive a hard bargain, beat down: also to cheat. *Worth a Jew's eye*, extremely valuable, worth its weight in gold: in the Middle Ages the Jews were subject to great extortions, and many stories are related of eyes put out, or teeth drawn, to enforce payment (1593).

Jew-bail. Straw-bail (q.v.) (*Grose*).

Jew-butter. Goose-grease.

Jew-fencer. A Jew street buyer (or salesman), generally of stolen goods.

Jewhilikins! A general exclamation of surprise.

Jewlark. To fool around: a portmanteau verb of action (1851).

Jew's-poker. A woman, living by lighting the Jews' fires on Saturdays.

Jezebel. An objectionable woman, termagant, shrew: from the wife of Ahab (1553).

Jib. 1. The face: *the cut of one's jib*, the peculiar or characteristic appearance of a person (1825). 2. A first-year's man. 3. A horse given to shying, jibber. As verb, (1) to shirk, funk (q.v.), cut (q.v.) (*Lex. Bal.*); (2) to depart, be off: see Bunk. *To be jibbed* (Christ's Hospital), to be called over the coals, get into trouble, be twigged (q.v.). *Jib-of-jibs*, an impossible sail, a star-gazer (q.v.), sky-scraper (q.v.).

Jibb. 1. The tongue: hence, 2. language; speech.

Jibber the kibber. See Kibber.

Jibe. To agree, live in harmony, jump (q.v.).

Jickajog. A commotion, push (1614).

Jiffy (or Jeffey). The shortest possible time: also jiff (1793).

Jiffess. An employer's wife.

Jig. 1. A dance, gig (q.v.) (*B. E.*). 2. An antic, nonsense, game, lay (q.v.) (1596). 3. See Jigger. 4. Short for giglot (q.v.). 5. (Winchester College). A clever man: fifty years ago it meant a swindler: the word has now the meanings (i) a low joke, (ii) a swindle, (iii) an object of sport (*Notions*) (1610). As verb, (1) to cheat, delude, impose upon; (2) To dance (1719).

Jigamaree. A bit of chaff, nonsense, any triviality, thingumbob (q.v.).

Jigga-joggy. A jolting motion: also *jig-jog* (1605).

Jigger. 1. A door: also *Jig*, *Jegger*, and *Gyger*: Fr., *fendante*, *guimbarde*, *lourde*: It., *diorta*, *introibo*, *turlante* (1567). 2. A doorkeeper. screw (q.v.), a jailer or turnkey: also *jigger-dubber*: Fr., *duc de guiche*. In

Hants, a policeman (1749). 3. A key. 4. A whipping-post (1708). 5. A secret still. *Jiggerstuff*, illicitly distilled spirits; *Jigger-worker*, a vendor of the same: hence, also, a drink of whisky (1823). 6. The bridge or rest for the cue when a ball is beyond arm's length. 7. The curtain, or rag (q.v.). 8. A guard-room: Fr., *boite*: also specifically: an interviewing chamber (in Newgate) where felons, on payment, saw their friends. 9. A fiddlestick. (Jigger or Jig is also applied to many small mechanical contrivances or handy tools). 10. A shifty fellow, trickster (1675). As verb, (1) To bet, wager; (2) to shake, jerk. *Not worth a jigger*, valueless.

Jigger-dubber. See Jigger.

Jiggered. *To be jiggered*, used as a mild imprecation: as Blow it! (q.v.), Bust me! (q.v.): also in astonishment.

Jiggered up. Used up, exhausted.

Jiggery-pokery. Humbug, nonsense.

Jiglets. *His jiglets!* a contemptuous form of address; his nibs (q.v.).

Jig-water. Bad whisky, rot-gut (q.v.): see Drinks.

Jiggumbob (or **Jiggambob**) A knick-knack, trinket, anything particular, strange, or unknown: cf. Thingumbob (1640).

Jill. See Gill.

Jill-flirt. See Gill-flirt.

Jilt. 1. Specifically, a woman who encourages, or solicits, advances to which she designs there shall be no practical end. Hence *jilted* and *jilt*, verb. 2. A crowbar, jemmy (q.v.). In pl., housebreaking tools generally. As verb, to get in on the sly or false pretences at the door, and sneaking what can be found.

Jilter. Thieves who work as described under Jilt.

Jim-Brown. Town.

Jimcrack. See Gimcrack.

Jimbugg. A sheep, woolly-bird (q.v.) (1854).

Jim Crow. See Billy Barlow.

Jimjams. 1. Delirium tremens, The horrors (q.v.): also, *the jams*: see Gallon-distemper. 2. Distorted views kinks (q.v.).

Jim-dandy. Superfine.

Jimmy. 1. See Jemmy. 2. A new chum (q.v.): specifically (Australian convicts), a free emigrant (1859). 3. A contrivance, concealed confederate, fake (q.v.). 4. A coal waggon. *All jimmy*, (1) all nonsense; (2) exactly, fit, suitable: cf. jemmy.

Jimmy Skinner. A dinner.

Jimplecute (or **Jimpsecute**). A sweetheart.

Jing-bang. A lot complete, boiling (q.v.).

Jingle. A hackney carriage (Dublin).

Jingle-box. A leathern jack tipped with silver, and hung with bells, formerly in use among fuddlecaps (*Grose*).

Jingleboy. See Gingle boy (1658).

Jingler. A swindling horse dealer.

Jinglebrains. A wild, harum-scarum fellow (*B. E.*).

Jingo. 1. Used in mild oaths: as by Jingo! or By Jings. (*Halliwell*: a corruption of St. Gingoulph or Gingulphus; by others from Basque *Jinkoa*, God: also By the Living Jingo) (1691). 2. One of that party which advocated the Turkish cause against Russia, in the war of 1877-78: hence, one clamorous for war, one who advocates a warlike policy. [In this sense taken directly from the refrain of a popular music-hall song (*c.* 1874), We don't want to fight, but by Jingo if we do, We've got the ships, we've got the men, we've got the money too!]. Hence Jingoism, the theory and practice of the Jingoes.

Jiniper-lecture. A scolding (*B. E.*): cf. Curtain lecture.

Jink. 1. Coin, money, chink (q.v.). 2. See High Jinks. *To jink one's tin*, to pay money, shell out, rattle or flash (q.v.) one's cash.

Jinny. A Geneva watch.

Jipper. Gravy.

Jo. See Joe.

Joan. A fetter: specifically *Darby and Joan*, fetters coupling two persons: see Darbies. *Homely Joan*, a coarse, ordinary looking woman (*B. E.*). *Joan in the dark is as good as my lady*, a variant of, When you cannot kiss the mistress kiss the maid, or When candles are out all cats are grey (*B. E.*).

Job. 1. Specifically, robbery; generally, any unfair arrangement, or effect of nepotism: e.g. the obtaining of an office, or a contract, by secret influence, or the undertaking of a piece of business ostensibly for public but really for private ends (1667). 2. A piece of work, occurrence (fortunate or otherwise), situation, place of employment. A *bad job*, an unlucky occurrence, misfortune, unsuccessful attempt. Hence *jobber*, one who does piece or occasional work (1658). 3. A guinea: also *jobe* (*B. E.*). 4. As subs., patience; as intj., take time, don't be in a hurry! (*Matsell*). 5. See Jab (1827). As verb, (1) to do work (or perform duties), ostensibly *pro bono publico* but in reality for one's private ends or advantage (1731); (2) to thrust violently and suddenly, prod, jab (q.v.) (1557); (3) to chide, reprimand: also *jobe*. *To be on the job*, to mean honestly, be genuine, run straight, work quickly and steadily, achieve complete success, be bent on. *To have got the job*, to have a commission to back a horse. *To do the job for one*, to finish, kill.

Jobation (Jawbation). A tedious rebuke, prolonged scolding, dreary homily (1746).

Jobbernowl. 1. A fool's head: see Crumpet (1562). 2. A fool: see Buffle (1598).

Jobber. 1. One who purchases goods in bulk and is the medium of their distribution, a middleman (1662). 2. See Job.

Jobber-knot (or **Jobber nut**). A tall ungainly fellow (1823).

Jobbery. The practice of political corruption, employment of unfair means to public or private advantage (1857).

Jobe. See Job.

Job's-comfort. Reproof instead of consolation. Hence *Job's-comforter*, a sharp-tongued friend: also a boil (in allusion to Job ii. 7). *Job's-news*, bad news; *Job's-post*, a messenger of bad news; *as poor as Job's turkey*, that had but one feather in its tail, or, that had to lean against a fence to gobble. *Job's wife*, a whoring scold. *Job's-dock*, a hospital; *Job's-ward*, a ward for the treatment of venereal diseases (1738).

Jock. See Jockey. As verb, to enjoy oneself.

Jockey. 1. A professional rider; also a horse-dealer (1638): hence (1690) a sharper: also (colloquially) *jock* and *gentleman-jock* and *jocker*. 2. In pl., top-boots. 3. A Scot (1529). As verb, (1) to cheat, ride foul: generally, to use dishonest means to a profitable end: see Bamboozle (1748). (2) (Winchester College), (i) to supplant, (ii) to appropriate; (iii) to engage: e.g. He *jockeyed* me up to books; Who has *jockeyed* my baker; This court is *jockeyed*: probably an extended use of the word borrowed from turf slang. *Jockey not*, the Commoner cry claiming exemption, answering to feign at other schools: of which the college 'finge' seems a translation: the opposite of *jockey up*, to lose down (*Notions*). *To jockey* (or *bag*) *the over*, to manage the running in such a manner as to get all the bowling to oneself.

Jock Blunt. *To look like Jock Blunt*, said of a person who is out of countenance at a disappointment (1723).

Jock-te-leear. A small almanack, i.e. *Jock* (or *John*) *the liar*, from its loose weather forecasts.

Jocteleg (or **Jackyleg**). A large pocket-knife: from Jacques de Liège, a famous cutler: see Chive (1730).

Joe (or **Joey**). 1. A fourpenny piece: see Rhino: these pieces are said to have owed their existence to the pressing instance of Mr. Hume, from whence they, for some time, bore the nickname. 2. See Joe Miller. 3. A watercloset. 4. A marine: see Joseph. 5. A lobster too small for sale; i.e. one under ten inches long. 6. A gold coin worth 8 to 9 dollars: also *Double-joe*: see Rhino. 7. A companion, sweetheart (1500). As verb, to deride, get at (q.v.), take liberties with text, business, or audience. *Not for Joe*: see Joseph. *Joe Manton*, a name given to fowling-pieces made by Joseph Manton, a celebrated London gunsmith: also *Manton*.

Joe Miller. A stale joke, dull tale, chestnut (q.v.): from a collection entitled *Joe Miller's Jest Book*, published *circa* 1750, the term having been used to pass off not only the original stock, but thousands of jokes manufactured long after. Hence *Joe-Millerism* and *Joe-Millerize*.

Joe Savage. A cabbage.

Joey. 1. A hypocrite (*Matsell*). 2. See Joe. 3. A familiar name for anything young or small, and is applied indifferently to a puppy, or a kitten, or a child. *Wood-and-water-joey*, a hanger about hotels, and a doer of odd jobs. 4. A marine. 5. A clown:

from Joey Grimaldi. As intj., a warning cry: also *Jo!*

Jogger. To play and sing, perform.

Joggering Omey. A musician. [It., *giocar*, to play, and *uomo*, a man.]

Jog-trot (or **Job-trot**). A slow trot: hence a dull round, unvarying and uninteresting method; as adj., monotonous, easy-going. Hence, adv., *Jog-trotty* (1709).

Jogue. A shilling: see Rhino (*Grose*).

Jogul. To play up: at cards or other games (*Hotten*).

John (Sandhurst). A first year's cadet. 2. A priest: also *Sir John* and *Mess-* (or *Mass-*) *John* (q.v.) (1383). 3. See Poor John.

John's silver pin. A piece of finery amongst sluttery and dirt.

John-a-nokes (**John-at-the-oaks**). Anybody, Mr. Thingumbab (q.v.); also *John-a-stiles* or *John-at-the-styles* (1529).

John-a-dreams. A dreamer, man of sentiment and fancy as opposed to action, futile person (1596).

John-among-the-maids. A lady's man, carpet-knight (q.v.).

John-and-Joan. An hermaphrodite.

John-Audley. A signal to abridge the performance: when another house (q.v.) is waiting, the word John Audley is passed round: also *John Orderly*.

John-Barleycorn. Beer: see Drinks (1791).

John Blunt. A plain-spoken man: also *Jock Blunt*.

John-Cheese. A clown: also *John Trot*.

John Collins. A mixture of soda water, gin, sugar, lemon, and ice.

John Chinaman. A Chinaman, the Chinese collectively.

John Company. The Hon. East India Company (1808).

John Davis. Money: otherwise Ready John: see Rhino.

Johnian. A student of St. John's College, Cambridge: also *Johnian Pig* or *Hog*. Also as adj.: e.g. *Johnian* blazer, *Johnian* melody, etc. (1785).

John Long the Carrier. *To stay for* (or *send by*) *John Long the carrier*, to wait a long time, postpone indefinitely.

Johnnie (**Johnny**). 1. A policeman: also *Johnny Darby* (1851). 2. An acquaintance, young man about town. Also a sweetheart—male or female: e.g. My Johnny (1724). 3. A half-glass of whisky. 4. See Johnny Reb. *Johnny-bum*, a jack-ass (*Grose*). *Johnny-cake*, a New-Englander. *Johnny-haultant*, a merchant sailor's name for a man-o'-war's-man (*Clark Russell*). *Johnny-Bates'-farm*: see Bates' farm. *Johnny-* *Johnny-Bono*, an Englishman. *Johnny-Darby*, (1) a policeman, (2) in pl., handcuffs. *Johnny Newcome*, a new-born child; also (nautical) an inexperienced youngster, landsmen in general (1857). *Johnny Raw*, (1) a recruit, novice (1819); (2) a morning draught. *Johnny Reb* (or *Johnny*), a soldier in the Confederate ranks during the civil war 1861-65: see Blue-bellies.

John Roberts. A measure of drink enough to keep a man tipsy from Saturday to Sunday night, is universally known throughout Wales as a John Roberts: it derives its name from the author of the Sunday Closing Act.

John the Baptist. A one cent piece.

John Thomas. A flunkey.

John (or **Joan**) **Thomson's Man.** An uxorious, or faithful, husband (1513).

John Trot. A clown: also *John Cream* (1774).

Join. To marry.

Joint. 1. An opium den, gambling saloon, low-class drinking house of any kind. 2. A partnership of thieves. Hence, *to work the joint*, to swindle by means of a faked lottery table.

Joker. 1. A general term of banter, nice 'un—as cove, codger, tulip (1665). 2. An extra card used in certain games: it is blank or bears some special device, is always a trump, and generally the highest: often called *jolly joker*. 3. 'These little jokers were attached to the left thumbs of certain judges of election as the ballots were being counted. These jokers are made of rubber and have a cross on them. They are really rubber stamps. As these judges picked up the ballots they took hold of them in such a way that their left thumbs, with the jokers attached thereto, pressed upon the squares opposite the name of the candidate whom they wished to aid. By thus pressing upon said squares crosses were left in them' (*R. of Rev.*).

Jollock. A parson.

Jolly. 1. The head: also *Jolly nob* (1785). 2. A Royal Marine: cf. Tame Jolly: Fr., *bigorneau* (1833). 3. A dependent or confederate of a cheat. 4. A pretence, excuse. 5. Praise, recommendation, chaff, abuse. *To chuck a jolly*, to set off an address to one or other of these ends: see Chuck. As adj. and adv., (1) fine, excellent, very good, very, exceedingly (1369); (2) slightly drunk: see Screwed; (3) fat, fleshy. As verb, to joke, rally, vituperate (1610).

Jolly-boys. A group of small drinking vessels connected by a tube, or by openings one from another.

Jolly-dog. A boon companion (*Grose*).

Jolly-jumper. A light sail set above a sky-scraper (q.v.) (*Clark Russell*).

Jolly-nob. See Jolly.

Jolly-Roger. A pirate's flag, Death's head and cross bones (q.v.).

Jolt-Head (or **Jolter-head**). A blockhead: see Buffle (1593).

Jolt-headed (or **Jolter-headed**). Stupid, dull, chowder-headed (q.v.).

Jomer. A flame, sweetheart.

Jonah. A person whose presence brings bad luck; specifically a clergyman: of Biblical origin. *Jonah-trip*, an unlucky undertaking (1594).

Jonnick (or **Jonnuk**). Right, correct, proper. *To be jonnuk*, to be fair, share equally.

Jardan. 1. A slop-pail: see It. Short for Jordan bottle, a memory of the Crusades. 2. Hence *Jordan-headed* (*Dunbar*) an opprobrious epithet (1383). 3. A stroke with a staff (1696). 4. The Atlantic, the ditch (q.v.), the herring-pond (q.v.). As adj., disagreeable, hard of accomplishment.

Jorum. A drinking-bowl; also a portion of liquor, a neddy (q.v.) (1796).

Joseph. 1. A cloak: specifically a lady's riding habit with buttons to the skirts: also (American thieves') a patched coat: cf. Benjamin (1671). 2. A woman-proof male. *To wear Joseph's coat*, to defy temptation, as Joseph with Potiphar's wife (*Grose*). *Not for Joseph*, a contemptuous refusal, a sarcastic dissent. *Joseph's coat*, a coat of many colours, a dress of honour.

Josey. To go, hasten: see Bunk.

Josh. 1. A sleepy-head, dolt. 2. An Arkansas man. As verb, to chaff, quiz, make fun of. As intj., a word shouted at the New York Stock Exchange to wake up a slumbering member (*Bartlett*).

Joskin. A bumpkin, dolt: see Buffle.

Josser. 1. A simpleton, flat, sponge (q.v.), old *roué*: also as adj. 2. A parson (Australian).

Jossop. Syrup, juice, gravy, sauce (*Hotten*).

Jostle. To cheat.

Jounce. A jolt, shake. As verb, to jolt, shake by rough riding, handle carelessly, deal severely with (1833). *To be jounced*, to be enamoured of.

Journey. Occasion, juncture, time.

Journeyman Soul-saver. A scripture-reader, bible-woman: also *journeyman-parson* (London), a curate.

Jove. See By Jove.

Jowl (or **Jole**). The cheek; *cheek by jowl*, close together; *jowl-sucking*, kissing (1592).

Joyful. *To be addicted to the O be joyful*, to be confirmed in tippling.

Juba. A negro.

Jubilee (Winchester College). A pleasant time: e.g. The town was all in a *jubilee* of feasts (*Dryden*).

Judas. 1. A traitor. *Judas-coloured*, red: from the tradition that Judas had red hair (1384). 2. See Judas-hole.

Judas-hole. A spy-hole in a cell door: also *Judas*.

Judge. The man most popular with his fellows (American cadet).

Judge and Jury. A mock trial, the fines being paid in beer.

Judy (or **Jude**). 1. A girl, a woman, especially one of loose morals: also, a sweetheart: in Anglo-Chinese circles a native courtezan. 2. A simpleton, fool: *to make a judy of oneself*, to play the fool, act the giddy goat (q.v.) or saucy kipper (q.v.) (1824).

Juff. 1. The cheek. 2. The posteriors.

Jug. 1. A prison: also more frequently stone-jug (q.v.): see Cage: Fr., *boite aux cailloux*; Sp., *tristura*. [*Skeat*: Fr., *joug*, a yoke: the Eng. jug, a cant term for a prison (also called jocosely a stone-jug) is the same word]. 2. A bank. *A broken jugged one*, a note from a broken bank: hence, *jug-breaking*, bank burglary. 3. A mistress: hence a term of endearment.

4. A term of contempt applied indifferently to both the sexes: see Juggins. As verb, (1) to imprison, lock up, run in; hence to hide (1852); (2) to take in, do (q.v.).

Jug-bitten. Drunk: see Screwed (1633).

Jug-full. *Not by a jug full*, not by a good deal, by long chalks, by no means (1834).

Juggins (or **Jug**). A fool: see Buffle.

Juggler's-box. The branding-iron.

Juice. *To stew in one's own juice* (*gravy*, or *grease*): see Stew.

Juicy. 1. Piquant, racy, bawdy; 2. Amorous.

Jukrum. A licence (*B. E.*).

Julius Cæsar. *Dead as Julius Cæsar*, dead past doubting.

Jumbaree. Jewellery.

Jumbo. A clumsy, unwieldy fellow (*Bee*).

Jumble-gut-lane. A bad or rough road (*B. E.*).

Jumbuck. A sheep, woolly-bird (q.v.) (1851).

Jummix. To jumble up, mix together: a portmanteau word (q.v.).

Jump. 1. A form of robbery: see Jilt. 2. A window: cf. Back jump. 3. (in pl.), The fidgets, *delirium tremens*. 4. Loose raiment: see Jumper (1762). As verb, (1) to seize upon forcibly or by stealth, cheat, supplant: e.g. *to jump a man*, to pounce upon and rob or maltreat; *to jump a house*, to rob it; *to jump a claim*, to take possession of a mining right in the absence of an owner: Fr., *farguer à la dure*; (2) to try a medicine. *From the jump*, from the start (1848). *To jump at*, (1) to accept eagerly. (2) To guess. *To jump* (or *be jump*) *with*, to agree, coincide, tally (1567); *to jump one's horse over a bar*, for a paltry sum, to sell one's horse, saddle, bridle, and all, to the lambing-down landlord. *To go a jump*, to enter a house by the window (*Matsell*). *To jump a bill*, to dishonour an acceptance. *To see how the cat will jump*, to watch the course of events, sit on the fence (q.v.). *To jump upon*, to maltreat (physically or otherwise), criticise severely, take it out of (q.v.), sit upon (q.v.). *To jump bail*, to abscond. *To jump the broomstick*: see Broomstick. *To jump up*, to get the best of one, or the reverse. *To jump the game*, to raid a gambling den. *To jump up behind*, to endorse an acceptance. *To jump out of one's skin*: see Skin. *On the keen jump*, on the go, violently at work.

Jump-down. The last place in course of erection on the outskirts of what is called civilised life. Also *jumping off place*, a destination.

Jumped-up. Conceited, arrogant, perturbed, upset.

Jumper. 1. A tenpenny-piece (1821). 2. A thief who enters houses by the windows: cf. Jilter (1811). 3. One who illegally appropriates a claim: cf. Bounty-jumper. 4. A short slop of coarse woollen or canvas.

Jumping-Jack. An antic, gull.

Jumping Jehosophat (**Jupiter**, or **Moses**). See By.

Jumping Cat. *The cult of the jumping cat*, the practice of waiting to see the course of events before acting: see Cat.

Jumping-powder. A stimulant to give spirit and go to a person or animal.

June. To go [Germ., *gehen*].

Junesey. A sweetheart.

Junk (or **Salt-junk**). Salt beef.

Junket! (Winchester College). An exclamation of self-congratulation: e.g. *Junket*, I've got a remi. As verb, to exult over (*Notions*).

Junt. A wanton.

Jupiter (or **Jupiter-tonans**). *The Times* newspaper: see Thunderer. *Jupiter junior*, *The Daily Telegraph*.

Jurk. A seal, jark (q.v.) (*Matsell*).

Jury. An assertion, profession.

Just. In truth, really, rather.

Jybe. See Gybe.

Jutland. The posteriors (1695).

Kaffir. 1. A prostitute's bully, ponce (q.v.): hence a general term of contempt. 2. In pl. South African mining shares.

Kail. *Kail through the reek,* bitter language or hard usage: in allusion to the unpalatableness of smoky broth. *To give one his kail through the reek,* to reprove violently, punish with severity (1817).

Ka me, Ka thee. One good turn deserves another, scratch my back and I'll scratch yours: also *Ka* and *Kob* (1547).

Kangaroo. *Kangaroo droop,* a feminine affectation (cf. Grecian bend and Roman fall): the hands are brought close to the breast and set to droop palm downward, as if muscular action were lost. *Kangaroo voting,* the Australian ballot system: adopted, with sundry modifications, in many of the United States (*Norton*).

Kanits. A stink. *Kanitseno,* a stinking one.

Kant. See Cant.

Kanuck. See Canack.

Karimption. A gang, mob, party.

Karplunk. See Cachunk.

Kate (or Katey). 1. A picklock: cf. Betty and Jenny (1696). 2. A wanton: Dutch, *Kat* (*Matsell*): see Kitty (1721).

Keck-handed. Left-handed: prov. Eng. *Keck,* wrongly.

Kedger. A mean fellow, cadger (q.v.): one in everybody's mess but in no one's watch—an old term for a fisherman (*Smyth*).

Keek-cloy. See Kicks.

Keeker. In pl., the eyes: cf. Pintle-keek.

Keel. The posteriors. *To keel over,* to come to grief.

Keelbully. A lighterman carrying coals to and from ships (1696).

Keelhaul (or Keelrake). To punish offenders by dragging them under water on one side of a ship, and up again on the other, by ropes attached to the yard-arms on either side; or in small vessels, under the craft from stem to stern. Hence, figuratively, to treat roughly, chastise. *Keelhauling,* a good rating, rough treatment (*Grose*).

Keen. A funny story, joke: *to get off a keen,* to make a witty remark.

Keep. 1. Board and lodging. 2. A salaried mistress. As verb, to abide (1593). Phrases: *To keep one's eyes skinned* (*polished,* or *peeled,* or *one's weather eye lifted, nose open,* or *end up,* etc.), to take care, maintain a position, be wideawake, or fly (q.v.); *to keep company,* (1) to go into society, entertain often and be often entertained (1658); (2) to sweetheart: said of both sexes (1835); *to keep a pig* (Oxford University), to have a lodger: the pig (q.v.) is usually a freshman who, the college being full, is quartered on a student whose rooms include two bedchambers; *To keep a stiff upper lip* (or *one's pecker up*), to stand firm, keep up a heart, chuck out one's chest; *to keep the doctor,* to retail adulterated drinks: cf. Doctor; *to keep chapel* (University), to go to chapel; *to keep cave* (Eton College), to watch and give warning of a tutor's approach; *to keep dark* (or *it dark,* to keep secret; *to keep sloom,* to keep quiet; *to keep it up,* to continue anything vigorously (specifically to prolong a debauch) (1773); *to keep dry,* to hold one's tongue, keep dark (q.v.); *to keep one back and belly,* to feed and clothe; *for keeps,* to keep for good; *to keep the door,* to play the bawd; *to keep the pot boiling,* to go on with anything, keep the game alive; *to keep* (or *hold*) *one's hair on*: see Hair; *to keep open house,* to sleep in the open air, do a star pitch: see Hedge-square; *to keep up to the collar,* to keep hard at work; *to keep sheep by moonlight,* to hang in chains; *he can't keep a hotel,* a phrase intimating lack of administrative capacity.

Keffel. A horse, prad (*B. E.*).

Keg. The stomach, victualling office (q.v.).

Kegmeg. Intimate talk, chat.

Ke-keya. The devil (*Matsell*).

Kelder. The belly: see Hans-in-kelder and Jack-in-the-cellar (1658).

Kelp. A hat: see Golgotha. *To kelp,* to raise one's hat in salutation (1754).

Kelso-boots. Heavy shackles put on the legs of prisoners; by some supposed to be a sort of stocks (*Jamieson*).

Kelter (or Kilter). 1. Order, condition, form (q.v.) (1630). 2. Money: see Rhino.

Keltie (or **Kelty**). A bumper: imposed as a fine on those who did not drink fair: said to be so called from a famous champion drinker in Kinross-shire.

Kemesa. See Camesa.

Ken. A house, place: generally in combination: e.g. *Boozing-ken*, drinking house; *a bob-ken* (or *bowman-ken*), a well-furnished house. *To bite* (or *crack*) *a ken*, to rob a house. English synonyms: carsey (or case), castle, cat-and-mouse, crack, diggings, hang-out, rootee, roost, shop, panny (1567).

Ken-cracker (or **Miller**) A housebreaker (*B. E.*).

Ken-crack-lay. Housebreaking: see Ken, Crack, and Lay.

Kennedy. A poker. *To give kennedy*, to lay on with a poker.

Kennel-raker. A scavenger, one fit only for low, dirty jobs (1647).

Kennurd. Drunk: see Screwed.

Kent (or **Kent-rag, Kent-clout**, etc.). A coloured cotton handkerchief.

Kentish-fire. A prolonged and ordered salvo of applause: from the cheers bestowed in Kent upon the No-Popery orators in 1828-29.

Kent-street Ejectment. Removing the street door, a method practised by the landlords in Kent Street, Southwark, when their tenants are above a fortnight's rent in arrear (*Grose*).

Kerbstone-broker. A stockbroker doing business outside the Stock Exchange, a guttersnipe (q.v.): Fr., *courtier marron*, and (collectively) *coulissiers*.

Kerflop. Onomatopœic: in imitation of the sound of a body falling flat or into water. Variants: cachunk (q.v.), kerslap, kesouse, keslosh, keswosh, kewosh, keswollop, kerchunk, kerplunk, kerthump, kershaw, kerslash, kerslosh, kerswosh, etc.

Kerry-security. Bond, pledge, oath, and keep the money (*Grose*).

Ketch. A hangman, Jack Ketch (q.v.). As verb, to hang.

Kettle. 1. A watch; *red-kettle*, gold watch; 2. an iron-built vessel, ironclad. *Pot calling the kettle black*, on all fours, six of one and half-a-dozen of the other. *A pretty* (or *fine*) *kettle* (or *kiddle*, basket) *of fish*, a mess or confusion of any kind, muddle (1750).

Kettledrum. 1. In plural, a woman's breasts: also Cupid's kettledrum. 2. An afternoon tea-party (1867).

Kew. A week.

Key. A translation, crib (q.v.). *To have the key of the street*, to be locked out-of-doors, to have no home (1836).

Key-hole. *To be all keyhole* (or *keyholed*), to be drunk: see Screwed.

Keyhole-whistler. A night's lodger in a barn or outhouse, skipper bird (q.v.).

Keystone State. Pennsylvania: when the names of the original Thirteen States were arranged archwise in their natural geographial order, Pennsylvania occupied the central position.

Kibosh. 1. Nonsense, anything worthless: also *Kiboshery*. 2. Snot (q.v.). 3. Style, fashion, form, the thing: e.g. that's the proper kibosh. As verb, to spoil, flummox (q.v.), queer (q.v.), bewilder, knock out of time. *To put the kibosh on*, (1) to stop, silence; (2) to wheedle, talk over; (3) to run down (1836).

Kibsy. See Kypsy.

Kick. 1. The fashion (1696). 2. A sixpence: of compound sums only, e.g. three and a kick, 3s. 6d.: see Rhino (1725). 3. A moment, jiffy (q.v.). 4. A pocket. 5. A grudge. 6. The hollow in the butt of a bottle (1851). 7. In pl., breeches, trousers: also *kicksters* and *kicksies*. English synonyms: arse-rug, bum-bags, bell-bottoms, bum-curtain, bags, calf-clingers, canvasseens (q.v.), continuations, don't-name-'ems, ducks, gam-cases, hams, inexpressibles, ineffables, inimitables, kicks, kickseys, moles, mustn't-mention-'ems, peg-tops (q.v.), pants, rice-bags, sit-upons, skilts (q.v.), slacks, strides, trolly-wags, trucks, trunks (q.v.), unhintables, unmentionables, unutterables, unwhisperables, whistling breeches (q.v.) (1696). 8. A sudden and strong objection, unexpected resistance. As verb, (1) to borrow, beg, break shins (q.v.); (2) to protest, resist, resent (1611); (3) to recoil: of fire-arms generally; (4) to jilt, give the mitten (q.v.); (5) to die: an abbreviation of to kick the bucket (q.v.); (6) to escape: also kick it (1725). Phrases: *kick in the guts*, a dram of spirits

(*Grose*); *to get more kicks than ha'-pence* (see Monkey's allowance); *to kick over the traces*, (1) to go the pace (q.v.); and (2) to resist authority; *to kick up a breeze* (*dust, row, diversion, lark, shindy*, etc.), to create a disturbance, raise Cain (q.v.), paint the town red (q.v.) (1750); *to kick the wind*, to be hanged: see Ladder; *to get the kick out* (or *dirty kick out*), to be summarily dismissed, discharged, kicked out; *to kick the bucket*, to die: see Hop the twig; the allusion is thought to allude to the way in which a slaughtered pig is hung up—viz. by passing the ends of a bent piece of wood behind the tendons of the hind legs, and so suspending it to a hook in a beam above: this piece of wood is locally termed a *bucket*, and so by a coarse metaphor the phrase came to signify to die; *to kick down the ladder*, to treat with contumely one's means of advancement; *to kick the clouds* (or *wind*), to be hanged: see Ladder; *to kick at waist*, to misfit at the waist; *to kick for the boot*, to ask for money; *to kick for trade*, to ask work; *to have the kick*, to be lucky, have cocum (q.v.); *to kick the stuffing out of one*, to maltreat, take a rise (or the wind) out of, get the better of; *to kick* (or *cool*) *one's heels*, (1): see Heels; (2) to die; *to kick the eye out of a mosquito*, a superlative expression of capacity; *a kick in one's gallop*, a whim, strange fancy.

Kicker. 1. An obstructionist, protestant. 2. In pl., the feet: see Creepers. 3. A dancing master (1838).

Kickeraboo. See Kick the bucket.

Kicking-strap. An elastic strap inside a habit.

Kickseys. 1. See Kick. 2. Shoes or highlows: also Kicksies.

Kickshaw. A trifle, anything fanciful or unsubstantial, something fantastical or with no particular name: *Skeat*: a curious corruption of Fr., *quelque-chose* (pronounced *kick-chose*) literally, something; hence a trifle or small delicacy (1598).

Kick-shoe. A dancer, caperer, buffoon.

Kicksies. See Kicks.

Kicksy. Troublesome, disagreeable.

Kicksy-wicksy. A term of contempt for a woman (1598). As adj., fantastic, restless.

Kick-up. A row: also rowdiness (1794).

Kid. 1. A child: hence, *to kid*, to lie in, get with child; *kidded* (or *with kid*), pregnant. English synonyms: brat, encumbrance, get, imp, infantry (collectively), kinchin, limb, lullaby cheat, monkey, papoose, youngster (1599). 2. A man (1811). 3. A policeman (1879). 4. A thief: specifically a young thief: also Kiddy. 5. A kidnapper. 6. Gammon (q.v.), devilry, chaff (q.v.). 7. In pl., Kid gloves: e.g. Kids cleaned for 2d. a pair. As verb, to quiz, wheedle, to cheat (1811); *To kid on*, to lead on by gammon or deceit (1851). *To kid oneself*, to be conceited. *Hard kid*, hard lines, bad luck, hard cheese (q.v.).

Kidden (Kid-ken, or Kiddy-ken). A lodging house frequented by young thieves (1839).

Kidder. 1. A forestaller. 2. A glib and taking speaker, master of chaff.

Kiddier. A pork-butcher.

Kiddily. Fashionably, showily, flashily: also *Kiddy*.

Kid-lay (or rig). 'One who meeting a Prentice with a Bundle or Parcel of goods, wheedles him by fair words, and whipping Sixpence into his Hand, to step on a short and sham Errand for him, in the mean time runs away with the goods' (*B. E.*).

Kiddleywink. 1. A raffle. 2. A small village shop; and, 3. specifically (in the West country), an ale-house. 4. a woman of unsteady habits.

Kiddy. 1. A man, boy, young fellow: a diminutive of kid (q.v.). Also *kidlet*, a boy or girl. 2. A flash thief; *rolling kiddy*, a dandy thief (1780). 3. A dandy (1823). 4. A stage-coach driver. As adj., fashionable, smart (q.v.).

Kiddyish. Stylish, up to date (q.v.).

Kiddy Nipper. A thief who cuts off the waistcoat pockets of tailors, when crosslegged on the board, thereby grabbling their bit (*Grose*).

Kidleybenders. Ice which undulates under the feet of a skater.

Kidment. 1. Humbug, gammon (q.v.): also (cheap Jack's), professional patter (1836). 2. A pocket handkerchief pinned to the pocket for a trap. As adj., comical (*Matsell*).

Kidnap. To steal children. Hence, *Kidnapper*, a child-stealer (1696).

Kidney. 1. Kind, disposition,

fashion: as, *Two of a kidney*, two of a mind; *of a strange kidney*, of an odd humour; *of a different kidney*, of different habit or turn: Fr., *bouchon* (1596). 2. A waiter, grasshopper (q.v.) (1710). 3. A fractional part of a shilling: a corruption of Cadney, the name of the first dealer on 'Change known to deal under $\frac{1}{32}$.

Kidney-hit. A punch in the short ribs.

Kid's-eye. A fippenny piece (1821).

Kidsman. A fellow that boards and lodges boys for the purpose of teaching them how to steal, putting them through a course of training, as a dog trainer will train dogs for the hunt. The kidsman accompanies the kid, and though committing no depredations himself, he controls and directs the motions of the others.

Kilkenny. A frieze coat (*Grose*).

Kill. A garment utterly spoiled. *Dressed to kill*: see Dressed and Death.

Kill-calf (or cow). A butcher, a murderous ruffian: also *Kill-buck*.

Kill-devil. Rum: specifically new spirit (1696).

Killers. The eyes: see Peepers (1780).

Killing. Fascinating, bewitching, irresistible: also *Killingly* (1619).

Kill-priest. Port wine.

Kill-the-beggar. Whisky: see Drinks.

Kill-time. A pastime.

Kilmarnock-cowl. 1. A knitted night-cap; and, 2. by implication the wretch that wore one (1830).

Kilmarnock-whittle. A person of either sex, already engaged or betrothed (*Jamieson*).

Kilter. See Kelter.

Kilt. Killed.

Kimbaw. 1. To trick, cheat, cozen: also, 2. to beat, bully (1696).

Kimbo (or Kimbaw). *To set the arms akimbo*, to set hands on hips with the elbows cocked (1606).

Kinchin (or Kinchen). A child, young man: also kinchen cove (q.v.). (1567).

Kinchin-cove. 1. A child: see Kinchin (1567). 2. An undersized man. 3. A man who robs or kidnaps children: hence, *kinchin lay*, robbing children; *kinchin mort*, a little girl.

Kinder. As it were: also *Kinder sorter*.

Kind-heart. A tooth-drawer: from an itinerant dentist so named, or nick-named, in the time of Elizabeth (1614).

King Cotton. Cotton, the staple of the Southern States of America, and the chief manufacture in England. *Cotton-lord*, a man enriched by cotton.

Kingdom Come. The future life; *to go to kingdom come*, to die: Fr., *paradouze* (or *part-à-douze*—a play on *paradis*), *parabole*; It., *soprano* (higher) Sp., *claro* (light).

King John's Man. *He is one of King John's men, eight score to the hundred*, a saying of a little undersized man (*Grose*).

King's (or Queen's) Bad Bargain. A malingering soldier, deserter (*Grose*).

King's-bencher. The busiest of the galley orators, a galley-skulker (*Smyth*).

King's Books. A pack of cards, The history (or books) of the four kings, devil's books (q.v.) (1653).

King's Cushion. A seat formed by two persons holding each other's hands crossed: also Queen's cushion (or chair), cat's-carriage (or cradle).

King's (or Queen's) Head Inn. Newgate: see Cage (1696).

King's Keys. The crow-bars and hammers used by sheriffs' officers to force doors and locks. [*Roquefort*: *faire la clef du Roy*, ouvrir les clefs et les coffres avec des instruments de serrurier.]

Kingsman. 1. A handkerchief: a yellow pattern upon a green ground—the favourite coloured neckerchief of costermongers: sometimes worn by women thrown over their shoulders. 2. A member of King's College, Cambridge. 3. In pl., the Seventy-eighth Foot, now the 2nd battalion, Seaforth Highlanders: their motto is *Cuidich'r Rhi*, Help the King.

King's (or Queen's) pictures. Money: see Rhino. *To draw the king's* (or *queen's*) *picture*, to counterfeit money (1632).

King's Plate. Fetters (*Lex. Bal.*): see Darbies.

Kingswood Lion. An ass, Jerusalem pony (q.v.).

Kink. A crotchet, whim (1846).

Kinky. Eccentric, short tempered, twisty (q.v.).

Kip. A brothel. *To tatter a kip*, to wreck a house of ill-fame (1766). 2. A bed. English synonyms: breeding-cage, bugwalk, bunk, cage, cloth-market, dab, doss, dossing crib, downy, Feathers Inn, flea-pasture, latty, letty, libb, lypken, perch, ruggins, shake-down, snooze. 3. A fool, silly fellow: he's a *kip*, he's dull-witted (*Matsell*): see Buffle. As verb, (1) to play truant, do dolly; (2) to sleep, lodge.

Kip-house. A tramps' lodginghouse.

Kipper. To die: see Hop the twig: on the Trent a salmon is said to be kipper when it is seriousy out of condition and has lost about half its weight.

Kipsy. See Kypsey.

Kirjalis. Who fears? I fear not; come on! (*Matsell*).

Kirkbuzzer. A thief whose speciality is to ply in churches (*Matsell*).

Kirkling. Breaking into a house while the occupants are at church.

Kirk's Lambs. The Second Regiment of Foot, now the Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment): from the name of its first colonel and the Paschal Lamb, the badge of Portugal, on its colours.

Kisky. Drunk, fuddled: see Screwed.

Kiss. 1. A drop of wax by the side of a seal on a letter. 2. In pl., Hotchkiss Ordnance Co. shares. As verb, to touch gently, brush: in billiards and other games the balls are said to kiss when they barely touch (1593). *To kiss the claws* (or *hands*), to salute (1630). *To kiss the counter*, to be confined in the Counter prison: also Clink (1618). *To kiss the dust*, to die: see Hop the twig. *To kiss the hare's foot*, to be too late for meals, to dine with Duke Humphrey (q.v.). *To kiss the master*, to hit the Jack (q.v.) at bowls (1579). *To kiss the post*, to be shut out (1600). *To kiss the maid*, 'Kissing the Maid, an Engine in Scotland, and at Halifax in England, in which the Head of a Malefactor is laid to be Cut off, and which this way is done to a hair, said to be invented by Earl Morton, who had the ill Fate to Handsel it' (*B. E.*).

Kiss-curl. A small curl twisted on the cheek or temple, beau-catcher (q.v.): cf. Aggrawator and Lovelock: Also Kiss-me-quick.

Kisser. 1. The mouth, the dripping (or latch-) pan (q.v.): see Potato-trap. 2. In pl., the lips, lispers (q.v.), mums (q.v.): Fr., *balots*.

Kissing-crust. The soft-baked surface between two loaves, the under crust in a pudding or pie (1708).

Kissing-strings. Ribands hanging over the shoulders, follow-me-lads (q.v.): Fr., *suivez-moi-jeune-homme* (1705).

Kissing-trap. The mouth, whisker-bed (q.v.): see Potato-trap.

Kiss-me-quick. 1. A kiss-curl (q.v.). 2. The name of a very small, once fashionable bonnet (1855). 3. A compounded drink.

Kist-o'-whustles. An organ (1640).

Kit. 1. A dancing master (*New Cant Dict.*). 2. A person's baggage or impediments, an outfit, collection of anything. *The whole kit*, the lot, the whole gridiron, or the whole boiling: in America, the kit and boodle.

Kitchen. The stomach, victualling office (q.v.).

Kitchener. A thief frequenting a thieves' kitchen (q.v.).

Kitchenite. A loafing compositor frequenting the kitchen of the Compositors' Society house.

Kitchen-Latin. Barbarous or sham Latin, dog-Latin (q.v.).

Kitchen-physic. 1. Pot-herbs; and, 2. victuals (1592).

Kitchen-stuff. A female servant (1658).

Kite. 1. A fool, sharper, cruel and rapacious wretch: Fr., *buse*: see Buffle (1534). 2. An accommodation bill, fictitious commercial paper, (in Scotland) a windmill-bill (q.v.): see Kite-flying. *To fly a kite*, (1) to raise money or keep up credit by the aforesaid means (1817); (2) to put out a feeler before a definite announcement. 3. Fancy stocks (*Matsell*). 4. A letter (*Matsell*). 5. The chief of a gang of thieves. 6. A recruiting sergeant: from Farquhar's Sergeant Kite in *The Recruiting Officer*. 7. The belly (1554). As verb, (1) to keep up one's credit by means of accommodation bills, obtain money by bills; (2) to speculate wildly; (3) to be restless, go from place to place, skite (q.v.) (*Matsell*).

Kite-flyer. One who raises money or sustains his credit by the use of accommodation bills.

Kite-flying. The fabrication or negotiation of bills of accommodation or bills for which no value has been received, in order to raise money.

Kitten. A pint or half-pint pewter pot: see Cat. As verb, to be brought to bed, bust up, explode.

Kittie (also **Kittock**). (1) Generic for a girl; (2) a romping wench; (3) a harlot (1513).

Kittle-breeks. An irritable person.

Kittle-pitchering. A jocular method of hobbling or bothering a troublesome teller of long stories; this is done by contradicting some very immaterial circumstance at the beginning of the narration, the objections to which being settled, others are immediately started to some new particular of like consequence, thus impeding, or rather not suffering him to enter into the main story. Kittle-pitchering is often practised in confederacy (*Grose*).

Kittler. One who tickles or pleases.

Kitty. 1. The Bridewell or prison at Durham: hence a prison or gaol generally. 2. In pl., effects, furniture, stock-in-trade, marbles (q.v.). *To seize one's kittys*, to take one's effects (*Lex. Bal.*). 3. A pool. 4. In pl., The Scots Guards.

Kivey. A man, fellow: a diminutive of cove (q.v.) (1854).

K. Legged. Knock-kneed, shaky on the pins.

Kloop! An imitation of the sound of a drawing cork.

Klem. To strike, hit.

Klep. A thief (q.v.): short for kleptomaniac. As verb, to steal: see Prig.

Knab the Rust. See Rust.

Knack. (1) A trick; and (2) a trinket. [*Tyrwhitt*: The word seems to have been formed by the knacking or snapping of the fingers made by jugglers.] (1383).

Knacker. 1. An old horse. 2. A horse-slaughterer. 3. In pl., Harrison, Barber, & Co., Ltd., shares: an amalgamation of horse-slaughterers. *Knacker's brandy*, a beating.

Knack-shop. A toy shop, a nicknackatory (1696).

Knap. 1. To steal, receive, accept, endure, etc. Thus, *to knap a clout*, to steal a handkerchief; *to knap the swag*, to grab the booty; *to knap seven* (or *fourteen*) *penn'orth*, to get seven or fourteen years'. In making a bargain, *to knap* the sum offered is to accept it. *Mr. Knap's been there*, is said of a pregnant woman. *To knap the rust*, to fall into a rage. Originally *knap* meant to strike: whence *knap* (theatrical), a manual retort rehearsed and arranged; *to take* (or *give*) *the knap*, to receive (or administer) a sham blow; and *knapper*, the head or receiver general (q.v.) (1537). 2. To be in punishment (q.v.); to catch it (q.v.). *To knap a hot 'un*, to receive a hard blow. 3. To arrest (*Matsell*). *To knap the stoop*, to go hungry. *To knap a jacob from a danna-drag*, to steal the ladder from a nightman's cart, while the men are absent, in order to effect an ascent to a one-pair-of-stairs window, to scale a garden wall (*De Vaux*).

Knapper's-poll. A sheep's head: see Sanguinary James.

Knapping-jigger. A turnpike gate: i.e. a gate for the receipt of tolls.

Knark. A churl, flintheart, nark (q.v.). (1851).

Knat. (1) A difficult task; (2) a tyrant; and (3) one not easily hoodwinked.

Knave (Christ's Hospital). A dunce: at Hertford, a knack.

Knee. *To offer* (or *give*) *the knee*, to play the second in a fight (1856). *Knee high to a mosquito* (*a toad, a chaw of tobacco*, etc.), insignificant, of scant account. *To sit on one's knees*, to kneel down.

Knee-trick. Kneeling (1632).

Knick-knack. A trinket, toy: see Nicknacks.

Knife. A sword (1270). As verb, (1) to stab; (2) to plot against the candidate of one's own party. *To lay down one's knife and fork*, to die, peg out (q.v.), to snuff it (q.v.): see Hop the twig. *To knife it*, to decamp, cut it (q.v.). *Knife it!* separate! leave off: go away! *To play a good knife and fork*, to eat with appetite. *Before one can say Knife!* instanter, in the twinkling of an eye (q.v.): cf. Jack Robinson.

Knife-board. A seat for passengers running lengthwise on the roof of an omnibus: now mostly superseded by garden seats: Fr., *impératrice* (1853).

Knifer. A sharking sponge.

Knifish. Spiteful.

Knight. An ironical prefix of profession or calling: generic. Thus: knight of the *blade*, a bully (*B. E.* 1690); knight of the *brush*, an artist or painter; knight of the *collar*, a gallows-bird; knight of the *cleaver*, a butcher; knight of the *cue*, a billiard-marker; knight of the *green cloth*, a gamester; knight of *Hornesy* (or of the *forked order*), a cuckold; knight of *industry*, a thief; knight of the *knife*, a cut-purse; knight of *labour* (in America), a working man; knight of the *lapstone*, a cobbler; knight of the *napkin*, a waiter; knight of the *needle*, a tailor; knight of the *quill*, an author or journalist; knight of the *pencil*, a book-maker; knight of the *pestle*, an apothecary; knight of the *pit*, a cocker; knight of the *petticoat*, a bawdy-house bully; knight of the *piss-pot*, a physician, an apothecary; knight of the *post*, a knight dubbed at the whipping post or pillory, also a rogue who got his living by giving false witness or false bail; knight of the *rainbow*, a footman (*Grose*, 1785); knight of the *road*, a footpad or highwayman: also knight of the *rumpad*; knight of the *shears* or *thimble*, a tailor (*Grose*, 1785); knight of the *spigot*, a tapster, a publican; knight of the *sun*, an adventurer, a knight-errant; knight of the *wheel*, a cyclist; knight of the *whip*, a coachman; knight of the *yard*, a shopman or counter-jumper. *To be knighted in Bridewell*, to be whipped in prison (1592).

Knitting Needle. A sword, cheese-toaster (q.v.).

Knob. 1. The head, nob (q.v.): see Crumpet. *One on the nob*, a blow on the head (*Grose*). 2. (workmen's.) A knobstick (q.v.).

Knobby. See Nobby.

Knob-of-suck. A piece of sweetmeat.

Knobstick (or Nobstick) 1. A non-society hand, dung (q.v.), rat (q.v.): also one who takes work under price, or continues at work while his fellows are on strike. 2. A master who does not pay his men at market rates (1851).

Knock. A lame horse, an incurable screw (q.v.): the horse-dealer in Jonson's *Bartholomew Fair* (1614), is called Knockem. As verb, to make an impression, be irresistible, fetch (q.v.), floor (q.v.). Phrases: *To knock acock*, to floor, flabbergast (q.v.), double up; *to knock about* (or *round*), to wander here and there, lounge: also to see life, go the pace (q.v.); *to knock about the bub*, to pass round the drink: see Bub; *to knock* (or *let*) *daylight into one*: see Daylight; *to knock all of a heap*: see Heap; *to knock at the cobbler's door*: see Cobbler's knock; *to knock down*, (1) to appropriate, embezzle; (2) to call upon, select (1758); *to knock down for a song*, to sell under intrinsic value; *to knock down a cheque* (or *pile*), to spend one's savings lavishly, blew (q.v.); *to knock down fares*, to pilfer fares: of conductors and guards; *to knock it down*, to applaud by hammering or stamping; *to knock one down to*, to introduce (to a person); *to knock in* (Oxford University), (1) to return to college after gate is closed; (2), to take a hand at cards, chip in (q.v.); *to knock into fits* (a *cocked hat*, *the middle of next week*, etc.), to confound, floor (q.v.), punish severely; *to knock* (or *take it*) *out of one*, to exhaust, empty, punish severely; *to knock off*, (1) to leave off work, abandon: Fr., *péter sur le mastic* (1662); (2) to dispatch with ease, put out of hand; (3) to deduct, knock so much off the price; (4) to die; *to knock one bandy*, to astound, flabbergast (q.v.); *to knock on the head*, to frustrate, spoil, settle; *to knock out*, (1) see Knock-out; (2) to bet so persistently against a horse that from a short price he retires to an outside place, drive out of the quotations; (3) to make bankrupt; *knocked out*, unable to meet engagements; (4) see Knock out of time; (5) (Oxford University), to leave college after hours: of out of college men only: see Knock in and Knocking out; *to knock out of time*, to punish an opponent so that he is not able to answer the call of Time; *to knock the spots off* (or *out of*), to surpass, confound, thrash, excel; *to knock the bottom* (*stuffing*, *wadding*, *lining*, *filling*, or *inside*) *out of*, to confound, surpass, floor (q.v.); thrash, finish off; *to knock smoke out of*, to try, vanquish utterly; *to knock saucepans out of*, to run amuck; *to knock out the wedges*, to desert, leave in a difficulty; *to knock round*: see To knock about; *to knock under*, to yield, give out, confess defeat (1668); *to knock up* (Christ's Hospital), (1) to gain a place in class: e.g. I knocked up and I knocked Jones up: the Hertford equivalent is ox up (q.v.); (2) to achieve, accomplish; (3) to put together hastily, as by nailing; (4) to exhaust, tire (1771); *to get the knock*, (1) to drink, get screwed (q.v.); (2) to be discharged, get the sack or bag (q.v.); *to take the knock*, to lose more to the bookmakers than one can pay, be dead broke (q.v.); *to be knocked off one's pins*, to be flabbergasted (q.v.); *that knocks me*, that confounds (or is too much for) me; *to be knocked into the middle of next week*, to be astounded, get badly beaten, be knocked into a cocked hat (1823).

Knockabout. An actor of violent and noisy pantomime: a special *genre*.

Knockabout man. A Jack-of-all-trades (q.v.), handy man.

Knock-down (or Knock-me-down). strong ale, stingo (q.v.), also, gin (1515). As adj., rowdy (1760).

Knock-down and Drag-out. A free-fight.

Knock-'em-down Business. Auctioneering.

Knock-'em-downs. Skittles (1828).

Knocker. In pl., small flat curls worn on the temples; sixes (q.v.). *Up to the knocker*, (1) completely equal to, perfect in appearance, condition, fitness; (2) in the height of fashion.

Knocker-face (or Head). An ugly faced person, ugly-mug (q.v.).

Knocker-out. See Knock-out.

Knock-in. 1. The game of loo. 2. A hand at cards. 3. A Knock-out (q.v.)

Knock-out. 1. A man frequenting auction rooms and acting in concert to buy at a nominal price. One of a gang is told off to buy for the rest, and after a few small bids as blinds, the lot is knocked down to the knock-out bidders, so that competition is made impossible. At the end of the sale the goods are taken away and resold or *knocked-out* among the confederates, the difference between the first purchase and the second—or tap-room knock-out—being divided. The lowest sort of knock-outs, with more tongue than capital, are called babes. Hence an auction at which knocking-out is practised. Also as verb and adj.: mainly a thing of the past. 2. In pl., dice. 3. A man or woman (used either in eulogy or in outraged propriety), a warm member (q.v.) one who does outrageous things. 4. A hit out of the guard on the point of the chin: which puts the recipient to sleep, and ends the fight; hence, a champion of any sort and in any walk of life. *Knocker-out*, a pugilist who is an adept at putting to sleep (q.v.).

Knocksoftly. A fool, soft (q.v.): see Buffle.

Knot. A crew, gang, fraternity (1597). *To knot it*, to abscond: see Bunk. *To tie with St. Mary's knot*, to hamstring. *To tie a knot with the tongue that cannot be untied with the teeth*, to get married.

Know. *To know what's what* (*what's o'clock*, *a thing or two*, *one's way about*, etc.), to have knowledge (taste, judgment, or experience), to be wide-awake (q.v.), equal to any emergency, fly (q.v.). *Not to know B from a battledore*: see B. *In the know*, having special and intimate knowledge, in the swim, on the ground floor (q.v.). *All one knows*, the utmost. *I want to know*, Is it possible? You surprise me.

Knowing. Artful, fly (q.v.) (1712). *Knowing bloke*, a sponger on new recruits.

Knowledge-box. The head, nous-box (q.v.): see Crumpet (1798).

Knub. To rub against, tickle (1653).

Knuck. A thief (q.v.): short for knuckle (q.v.) (1834). As verb, to steal: see Prig.

Knuckle. One who hangs about the lobbies of both Houses of Parliament, the Opera-House, and both Play-Houses, and in general wherever a great crowd assemble: they steal watches, snuff-boxes, etc. (*Parker*, 1781). As verb, (1) to fight with fists, pummel; (2) to pick pockets: applied especially to the more refined or artistic branch of the art, i.e. extracting notes or money from the waistcoat or breeches pockets, whereas buzzing (q.v.) is used in a more general sense: also *to go on the knuckle*. *To knuckle* (*knuckle down to*, or *knuckle under*), (1) to stoop, bend, yield, comply with, or submit to (1748); (2) to apply oneself earnestly, engage vigorously.

Knuckle-bone. *Down on the knuckle-bone*, hard-up, stony (q.v.).

Knuckled. Handsome.

Knuckledabs (or **Knuckle-confounders**). Handcuffs (*Grose*): see Darbies.

Knuckle-duster. 1. A knuckle-guard of iron or brass which, in striking, protects the hand from injury and adds force to a blow. 2. A large, heavy, or over-gaudy ring.

Knuckler. A pickpocket.

Knuller. 1. A chimney-sweep who solicits custom in an irregular manner, by knocking at the doors of houses and such like: also *kneller*. 2. A clergyman.

Kokum. Sham kindness: see Cocum.

Kone. Counterfeit coin (*Matsell*).

Koniacker (or **Cogniac-er**). A counterfeiter (*Matsell*).

Kool. To look.

Kotoo (or **Kotow**). To bow down to, scrape to, lickspittle.

Kosh (or **Kosher**). 1. A short iron bar used for purpose of assault. 2. A blow. As adj., fair, square: from the Hebrew, lawful.

Krop. Pork.

Kudos. Glory and honour. *To kudos*, to praise, glorify: from Gr., *kudos*, praised (1793).

Kye. Eighteen pence: see Rhino.

Kynchen. See Kinchen.

Kypsey. A wicker basket: also *kipsey* (1754).

L. *The three L's*, lead, latitude, and look-out (*Clark Russell*).

Label. A postage stamp: cf. Toadskin.

Labour. To beat.

Labourer. An accoucheur, midwife.

Lace. Strong waters added to coffee or tea: also (by inference), sugar (1712). As verb, (1) to intermix with spirits: Fr., *consoler son café*, to brandy one's coffee (1677); (2) to flog: also *to lace one's coat* (or *jacket*) (1599); (3) to wear tight stays.

Lacedemonians. The Forty-sixth Foot, now the second battalion of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry: from its colonel making it a long speech under a heavy fire about the Lacedemonians and their discipline: also Murrays Bucks and The Surprisers.

Laced Mutton. A woman, especially a wanton (1578).

Lacing. 1. See Lace. 2. A drubbing, flogging, lashing (1696).

Lach. To let in.

Lack-Latin. An ignoramus: specifically an unlettered priest (1555).

Ladder. *To mount a ladder* (*to bed* or *to rest*), to be hanged (1560). English synonyms: to cut a caper upon nothing (or one's last fling), to catch (nab, or be copped with), the stifles, to climb the stalk, to climb (or leap from) the leafless (or the triple) tree, to be cramped (crapped, or cropped), to cry cockles, to dance upon nothing (the Paddington frisk, in a hempen cravat, or a Newgate hornpipe without music), to fetch a Tyburn stretch, to die in one's boots (or shoes, or with cotton in one's ears), to die of hempen fever (or squinsy), to have a hearty choke with caper sauce for breakfast, to take a vegetable breakfast, to marry the widow, to morris (Old Cant), to trine, to tuck up, to swing, to trust, to be nubbed, to kick the wind, to kick the wind with one's heels, to kick the wind before the hotel door, to kick away the prop, to preach at Tyburn cross, to make (or have) a Tyburn show, to wag hemp in the wind, to wear hemp (an anodyne necklace, a hempen collar, a caudle, circle, cravat, croak, garter, necktie, or habeas), to wear neckweed, (or St. Andrew's lace), to tie Sir Tristram's Knot, to wear a horse's nightcap (or a Tyburn tippet), to come to scratch in a hanging (or stretching match or bee), to ride the horse foaled of an acorn (or the three-legged mare), to be stretched (topped, scragged, or down for one's scrag). *To be unable to see a hole in a ladder*, to be hopelessly drunk: see Screwed.

Laddle. A lady.

Ladies' Cage. That portion of the gallery in the Commons which is set apart for ladies: see Cage.

Ladies' Fever. Syphilis, French gout (q.v.).

Ladies' Finger (or **Wish**). A tapering glass of spirits, especially gin.

Ladies' Grog. Grog: hot, strong, sweet, and plenty of it (*Dickens*).

Ladies' Mile. Rotten Row in Hyde Park—the principal airing ground during the London season.

Ladle. To enunciate pretentiously; to mouth (q.v.).

Lad of (or on) the Cross. See Cross.

Lad o' Wax. 1. A cobbler, cock o' wax (q.v.). 2. A boy, doll of a man, man of wax, a proper man.

Ladron. A thief (q.v.): from the Spanish (1652).

Lad's Leavings (A). A girl (1737).

Lady. 1. A very crooked, deformed, and ill-shapen woman (1696): cf. Lord. 2. The reverse or tail (q.v.) of a coin: see Head. 3. A quart or pint pitcher wrong side uppermost. 4. The keeper of the gunner's small stores: *lady's hole*, the place where such stores are kept. 5. A woman of any station; usually in combination, as fore-lady, sales-lady, cook-lady. 6. In pl., cards, devil's books. 7. A sweetheart.

Ladybird. (1) A wanton; and (2) a term of endearment (1595).

Lady-chair. See King's cushion.

Lady Dacre's Wine. Gin (*Lex. Bal.*): see Drinks.

Lady-feast. A bout of debauchery (1653).

Lady Fender. A woman who spends her time nursing the fire.

Lady Green. A clergyman; specifically a prison chaplain.

Lady-killer. A male flirt, a general lover. *Lady-killing*, assiduous gallantry.

Lady of Pleasure. A prostitute: Fr., *fille de joie* (1750).

Lady's Ladder. Rattlins set too close.

Lady Ware. Trinkets, knick-knacks, ribands.

Lag. 1. Sentence of transportation, penal servitude. 2. A returned transport, convict, ticket-of-leave man (1811). 3. Water: also Lage (1573). 4. (Westminster School), a fag. 5. A dialogue or scene of extra length, also a wait. As verb, (1) to transport, send to penal servitude: *lagged*, sentenced, imprisoned: Fr., *aller à la grotto*; To lump the lighter (q.v.) (1819); (2) to steal, prig (q.v.); (3) to catch (1580); (4) to urinate; (5) to dally, wait, drop behind.

Lage. See Lag. As verb, to wash down, drink (1567).

Lager Beer. *To think no lager beer of oneself*: see Small beer.

Lag-fever. A term of ridicule applied to men who, being under sentence or transportation, pretend illness, to avoid being sent from gaol to the hulks (*Lex. Bal.*).

Lagger. 1. A sailor. 2. An informer, witness.

Lagging. A term of imprisonment: also lag (q.v.). Hence, *lagging matter*, a crime rendering persons liable to transportation (*Grose*).

Lagging-dues. When a person is likely to be transported, the flash people observe, lagging-dues will be concerned (*Grose*).

Lagging-gage. A chamber-pot, it (q.v.).

Lagniappe (or Lagnappe). The equivalent of the thirteenth roll in a baker's dozen. It is something thrown in, gratis for good measure. The custom originated in New Orleans city. When a child or servant buys something . . . . he finishes the operation by saying, 'Give me something for Lagniappe.' The shopman always responds . . . When you are invited to drink, and you say, I've had enough, the other says, 'But just this one time more this is for lagniappe' (*Mark Twain*).

Lagranged. Vexed.

Lag-ship. A convict transport.

Laid. See Lavender, and Shelf.

Lala. A swell.

Lally. Linen, lully (q.v.) (1800).

Lallycodler. One eminently successful in any particular line.

Lam. See Lamb.

Lamb. 1. A quiet easy-going person, simpleton, juggins (q.v.) (1669). 2. Ironically used of a rough (cruel, or merciless) person: specifically applied to Nottingham roughs, and hence to bludgeon men at elections: the head-money given is called mint-sauce (q.v.). English synonyms: barker, basher, blood-tub, bouncer, bounder, boy of the Holy Ground, bruiser, dead duck, hoodlum, larrikin, mug, plug-ugly, rabbit (or dead rabbit), ramper, roarer (or roaring-boy), rough, roustabout, rouster, rowdy, rustler, short-ear. 3. A term of endearment (1595). 4. An elderly person dressed or got-up young. 5.

See Pet Lamb. 6. See Kirke's Lambs. As verb, to beat: also *lamb lambaste, lamback*, and *lambeake* (1555). *To skin the lamb.* See Skin.

Lamback. A blow (1591).

Lambacker. A bully, hector (q.v.) (1593).

Lamb and Salad. *To give one lamb and salad*, to thrash soundly.

Lambaste. See Lamb.

Lambasting. A thrashing.

Lamb-down. To spend all in drink, to charter the bar (q.v.), to knock down one's cheque (q.v.), to blew the lot (q.v.).

Lamb-pie. A drubbing (*B. E.*).

Lambskin. To beat: see Lamb (1593).

Lambskin-man. A judge (*B. E.*).

Lamb's-wool. Hot ale, spiced, sweetened, and mixed with the pulp of roasted apples (1189).

Lame-dog. *To help a lame dog over a stile*, to give a hand, help, bunk up (q.v.): Fr., *sauver la mise à quelqu'un* (1605).

Lame duck. 1. A defaulter on 'Change, who has to 'waddle out of the Alley': cf. Bear, Bull, etc. (1766). 2. A scapegrace.

Lame-hand. An indifferent driver, spoon (q.v.).

Lammas. *At later Lammas*, never, at the Greek kalends (q.v.), at Tib's eve (q.v.) (1576).

Lammermoor Lion. A sheep: cf. Cotswold lion, and Essex lion.

Lammie Todd! I would if I could.

Lammikin. A blow (1622).

Lamming. A beating: cf. Lamb (1619).

Lammy. A blanket: originally a thick quilted frock, or short jumper made of flannel or blanket cloth, worn by sailors as an outside garment in cold weather (*Gentlemen's Magazine*, 1866).

Lamp. 1. An eye. 2. In pl., spectacles, giglamps (q.v.): see Peepers. *To smell of the lamp*, to show signs of labour or study (1615).

Lamp-post. A tall lanky person. English synonyms: clothes-prop, daddy-longlegs, Duke of Lankester, Duke of Limbs, gawk, gas-pipe, lath-legs, long-ghost, Long-shanks, long-'un, rasher-of-wind, sky-scraper, sky-topper, spindle-shanks, split-up, tongs, matches.

Lanceman (**Lance-knight**, or **Lanceman-prigger**). A highwayman (1591).

Lancepresado. One who has only twopence in his pocket; also a lance, or deputy corporal, that is, one doing the duty without the pay of corporal; formerly a lancier or horseman, who being dismounted by the death of his horse, served in the foot by the title of lansprisado or lancepesato; a broken lance (*B. E.* and *Grose*).

Land. 1. To deliver, get home (q.v.). 2. To bring or take a position or place, set down, catch, arrive (1850). 3. To set up, make all right, secure. 4. To win, gain. *To land out*, to decamp, bunk (q.v.). *To see how the land lies*, to see how matters stand. *Who has any land in Appleby*, 'a Question askt the Man at whose Door the Glass stands long' (*B. E.*).

Land-broker. An undertaker (*Matsell*).

Land-carack. A mistress (1629).

Land-crab. A landsman.

Landed Estate. 1. The grave, Darby's dyke (q.v.). 2. Dirt in the finger nails.

Landies (Winchester College). Gaiters: from tradespeople—Landy and Currell — who supplied them (*Notions*).

Landlady. *To hang the landlady*, to decamp without payment, to moonshine, to stand off the tailor.

Landlubber (also **Land-leaper** and **Land-loper**). A vagabond, one who fled the country for crime or debt; also (nautical) a landsman, in varying degrees of contempt, for incapacity in general or uselessness as sailors in particular: Fr., *jus de cancre, terrien*, or *failli chien de terrien* (1362).

Land of Nod. Sleep. *To go to the land of nod*, to go to bed, fall asleep (1818).

Land of Promises. The fair expectation cherished by a steady novice at Oxford (*Grose*).

Land of steady habits. Connecticut.

Land of Sheepishness. Schoolboy's bondage (*Grose*).

Land-packet. An ox-team.

Land-pirate (or **Land-rat**). 1. A land thief: cf. Water-rat (1598). 2. See Land-shark.

Land-raker. A vagabond, landlubber (q.v.) (1596).

Land Security. See Leg-bail.

Land-shark. 1. A boarding-house keeper, runner, crimp—any one living by the plunder of seamen: Fr., *vermine* (1838). 2. A usurer. 3. A land-grabber, one who seizes land by craft or force. 4. A custom-house officer (1815).

Land-swab. A landlubber (q.v.), grasscomber (q.v.).

Land-yard. A cemetery.

Lane. 1. The throat: see Gutter alley: also *Red lane* and *Red lion lane* (1534). 2. The course laid out for ocean steamers between England and America: there are two *lanes*, or *lane-routes* both narrowly defined—the northern for westward bound, and the southern for eastern bottoms. *The Lane*, (1) Drury Lane Theatre; (2) Mincing Lane; (3) Mark Lane; (4) Chancery Lane; (5) Petticoat Lane, and (6) the old Horsemonger Lane Jail, now demolished: cf. Cade, House, Garden, etc. *Harriet Lane*, tinned or preserved meat.

Langret. In pl., dice loaded so as to show 4 or 3 more often than any other number: the opposite is bardquater-tray (1591).

Lank. *After a lank comes a bank*, said of breeding women (1767).

Lank Sleeve. The empty sleeve of a one-armed man. A fellow with a lank sleeve; a man who has lost an arm (*Lex. Bal.*).

Lanspresado (or **Lansprisado**). See Lancepresado.

Lant. To make water, stale (q.v.): also, subs., urine (*Cotgrave*).

Lantern. To hang from a lamp-post: Fr., *à la lanterne*: see Lanthorn.

Lantern-jaws. Lean, thin-faced (1696).

Lanthorn. *Dark lanthorn*, the servant or agent that receives the bribe (at Court) (*B. E.*).

Lap. 1. Any sort of potable (among ballet-girls), gin: also *lapper* (1573). 2. One round of a course (1861). As verb, (1) to drink: also, *to go on the lap* (1819); (2) in running a race in laps, to overtake: as, to be one or more laps ahead; (3) to pick up, take, steal (*Matsell*); (4) to seat a girl on one's knees; (5) to throw candy, papers, etc. into the laps of passengers. *To lap the gutter*: see Gutter. *To lap up*, to wipe out, put out of sight. *Cat-lap* (see *ante*).

Lap-ear. 1. A student of a religious turn of mind. 2. A donkey.

Lap-ful. 1. A lover or husband; 2. an unborn child.

Lapland. The society of women.

Lapper. 1. Drink, lap (q.v.): hence, 2. *rare-lapper*, a hard drinker.

Lap-feeder. A silver table-spoon.

Lappel. *To ship the white lappel*, to be raised from the ranks.

Lap-priest. A clerical apple-squire (q.v.), a servant (q.v.) (1690).

Lap-tea. An informal afternoon meal.

Lardy. Grand, rich, swell (q.v.). *Lardy-dardy*, affected, effeminate: *lardy-dah* (or *la-di-da*), a swell or fop. *To do* (or *come*) *the lardy-dah*, to dress for the public.

Lareover. *Lareovers for medlers*, an answer frequently given to children, or young people, as a rebuke for their impertinent curiosity, in enquiring what is contained in a box, bundle, or any other closed conveyance (*Grose*).

Large. A vulgarism expressive of excess: thus, *to dress large*, to dress showily; *to go large*, to go noisily; *to play large*, to play high; *to talk large*, to brag, etc. (1852). *Large blue kind*, a general intensitive; e.g. a monstrous lie, bad headache, interesting book, and so forth.

Large House. A workhouse. English synonyms: big-house, grubbing-ken, lump, Lump-Hotel, pan, spinniken, wool-hole.

Large Order. A difficult undertaking, something exaggerated (extensive, or big).

Lark. 1. A piece of merriment (1811). 2. A boat (*Lex. Bal.*). As verb, (1) to sport, tease, spree (q.v.). (2) See Larking. (3) A boy who steals newspapers from doorsteps.

Larking. 1. To clear a jump, go over like a bird. 2. Exclusive of work for horses when hounds are running, there is another way of making use of horse-flesh in Leicestershire; and that is, in coming home from hunting, or what in the language of the day is called larking. One of the party holds up his hat, which is a signal for the start; and, putting their horses' heads in a direction for Melton, away they go, and stop at nothing till they get there (*Nimrod*). 3. Frolicking, horse-play, rowdyism. As adj., **Larkish** (q.v.)

Larkish (Larky or Larking). Frolicsome, rowdy.

Larky Subaltern's Train. See Cold meat train.

Larrence. See Lazy Laurence.

Larrey. Artful (*Matsell*).

Larrikin. A rough: cf. Arab, cabbage-tree, mob, hoodlum, etc. 'It was in a Sydney newspaper that I read about Larrikins, but the term would appear to have spread throughout Australia. H. de S. tells me that larrikin was originally Melbourne slang, applied to rowdy youngsters, who, in the early days of the gold fever, gave much trouble to the police. An Australian born spells the word larakin.... Finally, Archibald Forbes tells me: A larrikin is a cross between the street arab and the hoodlum, with a dash of the rough thrown in to improve the mixture. It was thus the term had its origin. A Sydney policeman of the Irish persuasion brought up a rowdy youngster before the local beak. Asked to describe the conduct of the misdemeanant, he said, 'Av it please yer honnor, the blaggard wor a larrakin' (larking) all over the place.' The expression was taken hold of and applied' (*Sala*). As adj., rowdy. *Larrikinism*, rowdyism.

Larrup. To flog: Fr., *coller du rototo*.

Larruping. A thrashing: Fr., *schlague* (1844).

Larry Dugan's Eye-water. Blacking (*Grose*).

Lash (Blue Coat School). To envy: usually used in the imperative as a taunt (*Blanch*).

Lashings (or **Lashins**). Plenty, abundance: also *lashin's and lavin's*, plenty and to spare (1841).

Lask. A looseness of the bowels.

Lass in a red petticoat. A wife with a good portion.

Last Compliment. Burial (1780).

Last-feather. The latest fashion (1607).

Latch. To let in (*New Cant Dict.*).

Latch-drawer. A thief (q.v.) who stole into houses by drawing the latch (1362).

Latch-pan. The under-lip; *to hang one's latch-pan*, to pout, to sulk.

Late-play (Westminster School). A half-holiday or holiday beginning at noon.

Lath-and-plaster. A master.

Lather. To beat, thrash: also Leather (q.v.) (1849).

Lathy. Thin (1748).

Latitat. An attorney (*Grose*): from an obsolete form of writ (1771).

Latter-end. The breech.

Lattice. See Red lattice.

Latty. See Letty.

Laugh. *To laugh on the wrong* (or *other*) *side of one's mouth* (or *face*), to cry (1811).

Launch. A lying-in (*Grose*). As verb, 'I had [at Sandhurst about 1815] to undergo the usual torments of being launched, that is having my bed reversed while I was asleep; of being thrown on the floor on my face, with the mattress on my back and all my friends or foes dancing on my prostrate body' (*Berkeley*).

Laundress. A bed maker in chambers.

Laurence. See Lusty Laurence.

Lavender. *To lay* (or *put*) *in lavender*, (1) to lay up or put aside carefully; as linen among lavender. Hence (2) to pawn; (3) to leave in lodging for debt; (4) to hide from the police; and (5) on the turf, to be ill or out of the way (1592).

Lavender-cove. A pawnbroker, uncle (q.v.).

Law. A time allowance: hence a preliminary notice, a chance of escape (*Grose*). *To stab the law*, to rail against authority.

Lawful Blanket (or **Jam**). A wife: see Dutch (*Lex. Bal.*).

Lawful pictures. Money: see Rhino and cf. King's pictures (1607).

Lawk! (or **Lawks!**) An exclamation of surprise.

Lawful Time (Winchester College). Recess, playtime.

Lawn. A handkerchief (*Grose*). *The lawn*, the lawn on the course at Ascot: cf. House, Lane, etc.

Lawrie (or **Laurie**). A fox (1567).

Lawyer. *High* (or *highway*) *lawyer*, a mounted robber or highwayman (1592).

Lay. 1. A pursuit, scheme, device, lurk. Also in combination, kinchin-lay (q.v.); avoirdupois-lay (q.v.); *ken-crack-lay*, house-breaking; *fancy-lay*, pugilism. English synonyms: dodge, game, huff, job, knack, lay-out, line, lurk, lug, move, outfit, racket, shake, show, swim. 2. A wager (1591). 3. A quantity (1821). 4. Goods (1821).

5. On American whaling ships the custom is not to pay fixed wages, but a lay or proportion of the catch which varies from a sixteenth to a twelfth to the captain down to a three-hundredth to the cabin-boy. As verb, (1) to wager; *to lay one's shirt*, to stake one's all. English synonyms: to lump on, to plank down, to do a flutter, to wire, to slant, to snap, to tot (1563). (2) To watch, search, lie in wait. *On the lay*, on the alert, at work: also *to lay for* and *to lay by* (1603). Phrases: *to lay about*, to strike on all sides, fight vigorously; *to lay at*, to attempt to strike, aim a blow; *to lay by the heels*, to put in prison or the stocks: see Heels; *to lay down*, to play cards; *to lay down one's knife and fork*, to die, go aloft (q.v.), hop the twig (q.v.); *to lay a duck's egg* (see Duck's egg); *to lay in*, to attack with vigour; *to lay in one's dish*, to object a thing to a person, make an accusation against him (1615); *to lay into*, to thrash (1838); *to lay it on* (and superlatively, *to lay it on thick*), to exceed—in speech, splendour, expense, charges, praise, etc. (1560); *to lay off*, to give over; *to lay oneself forth* (or *out*), to exert oneself rigorously and earnestly; *to lay oneself open*, to expose oneself; *to lay oneself out for*, to be ready and willing to take part in anything; *to lay out*, (1) to get the better of, disable (as with a blow), kill, cook one's goose (q.v.); (2) to intend, purpose, propose; *to lay over*, to excel; *a good lay*, an economical method of cutting, anything beneficial.

Laycock. See Miss Laycock.

Layer. A bookmaker, a betting man.

Lay-out. A company, outfit (q.v.), spread (q.v.).

Layover. See Lareover.

Laystall (**Leystall**, or **Layston**). A dunghill.

Lay-up. A drink, go (q.v.).

Lazy. *Lazy as Ludlam's* (or *David Laurence's*) *dog*, excessively indolent: also Lazy as Joe the marine who laid down his musket to sneeze (1670).

Lazy-bones. A loafer; also *lazy-boots*: Fr., *loche* (1593).

Lazy-Lawrence (or **Larrence**). An incarnation of laziness: a traditional tale has been handed down from age to age that at the execution of St. Lawrence he bore his torments without a writhe or groan, which caused some of those standing by to remark, 'How great must be his faith!' but his pagan executioner said, 'It is not his faith, but his idleness; he is too lazy to turn himself.'

Lazy-man's load. More than one can carry.

Lazy-tongs. An instrument like a pair of tongs to take anything off the ground without stooping.

Lead. (1) A leading or principal part; (2) the person who plays it. *Friendly lead*, an entertainment—sing-song, dance, or drinking party—got up to assist a friend in trouble (q.v.): Fr., *bouline* (1851). *To lead apes in hell*, the employment jocularly assigned to old maids in hell (1575).

Leading Article. The nose: see Conk.

Leaf. Autumn: cf. Fall of the leaf. *To go off with the fall of the leaf*, to be hanged; criminals hanged in Dublin being turned off from the outside of the prison, by the falling of a board, propped up, and moving on a hinge like the leaf of a table (*Grose*).

Leafless-tree. The gallows: see Nubbing-cheat: Fr., *sansfeuille*.

Leak. 1. To impart a secret (*Matsell*). 2. To make water (*Grose*). Hence, *to spring a leak*, to urinate.

Leaky. 1. Inclined to blab (q.v.). 2. Incontinent of urine.

Lean. Unremunerative; the reverse of fat (q.v.): also as subs., unprofitable work.

Lean-and-fat. A hat: see Golgotha.

Lean-and-lurch. A church.

Lean-away. A drunkard: see Lushington.

Leap. All safe (*New Cant Dict.*). *To take a leap at Tyburn* (or *in the dark*), to be hanged (1600). *To leap* (or *jump*) *the book* (*broomstick*, *broom*, *besom*, or *sword*), to marry in an informal fashion, to dab it up (q.v.); to live tally: cf. Rush-ring. *Let the best dog leap the stile first*, let the worthiest take preference. *To leap over the hedge before you come at the stile*, to be in a violent hurry (1670). *To be ready to leap over nine hedges*, exceeding ready (1767).

Leaping-house. A brothel (1598).

Leary (or **Leery**). 1. Artful, downy (q.v.). 2. Drunk: see Screwed.

Leary-cum-Fitz. A vulgarian actor.

Least. *Least in sight*, in hiding, out of the way, scarce (*Grose*).

Leather. 1. A pocket book: see Reader. 2. In pl., the ears, lugs (q.v.); 3. A cricket-, or foot-ball; *to hunt leather* (cricket), to field; *leather-hunting* (subs.), fielding. As verb, to beat, tan (q.v.), dust (q.v.) (1763). *To go to leather*, to grasp hold of the horn of a saddle. *To lose leather*, to be saddle-galled (*Grose*). *Leathers*, a postboy.

Leatherhead. 1. A swindler: see Rook (1696). 2. A policeman, watchman.

Leather-hunting. See Leather.

Leathering. A thrashing.

Leathern-convenience. A stage-coach, carriage (1696).

Leatherneck. A soldier: see Mud-crusher.

Leathernly. Clumsily, sordidly, poorly (1594).

Leave. A favourable position for a stroke (billiards). *To take French leave* (see French leave). *To leave in the air* (see Air). *To leave in the lurch* (see Lurch).

Leaving-shop. An unlicensed pawnbrokery, dolly-shop (q.v.): see Uncle (1857).

Led-captain. A toady, sponge (q.v.), pimp (1672).

Led-friend. A parasite (1710).

Leeds. Lincolnshire and Yorkshire ordinary stock.

Leek. The leeks are men who have not been brought up to the trade of chimney-sweeping, but have adopted it as a speculation, and are so called from their entering green, or inexperienced into the business (*Mayhew*).

Leekshire. Wales.

Leer. A newspaper (1780).

Leery. On one's guard (*Grose*).

Left. *Over the left* (or *left shoulder*), used in negation of a statement, and sometimes accompanied by pointing the thumb over the left shoulder: in Florio, 'in my other hose' (1682). *To get* (or *be left*), (1) to fail, and (2) to be placed in a difficulty. *To be left in the basket* (see Basketed).

Left-forepart. A wife: see Dutch.

Left-handed. Sinister, untoward, evil: Ger., *link* (1620).

Left-handed Wife. A concubine: cf. Fr., *mariage de la main gauche*, a morganatic union (1663).

Left-hander. A blow delivered with the left hand.

Leg. 1. A swindling gamester (1836). 2. A chalk or point scored in a game. 3. In pl., a lanky-built man or woman, lamp-post (q.v.). 4. A bow: see Make a leg (1596). As verb, (1) to trip up; (2) see Leg it. *To make* (or *scrape*) *a leg*, to bow, curtsey: also *to leg it* (1592). *To leg it*, (1) to run away: cf. Leg-bail and *to give legs*; (2) See Make a leg. *To break a leg*, to be seduced (1684). *To cut one's leg*, to get drunk: see Screwed (1767). *To get a leg in*, to obtain one's confidence. *A leg* (or *leg up*), help (1836). *To have a bone in one's leg* (*arm*, or *throat*), to be incapable of action: a playful refusal (1542). *To shake a free* (or *a loose*) *leg*, to live as one likes, go on tramp (1834). *To give* (or *show*) *legs* (or *a clean pair of legs*), to decamp, run away. *Not a leg* (or *a leg to stand on*), at the end of one's resources. *In high leg*, in high feather. *On one's last legs*, on the verge of ruin, at the end of one's tether (1763). *To be* (or *get*) *on one's legs*, to rise to speak, be speaking. *To stand on one's own legs*, to depend on oneself. *To set one* (or *get*) *on one's legs*, to restore or attain to good circumstances. *To show a leg*, to get out of bed. *To have the legs of one*, to outrun. *To fight at the leg*, to take unfair advantages, it being held unfair by backsword players to strike at the leg. *To fall on one's legs* (or *feet*), to prosper (1841). *To have legs*, to be reputed fast (as a ship, a horse, a runner). *To feel one's legs*, to be sure of one's ground. *To put one's best leg foremost*, (1) to make haste; and (2) to exert oneself (1599). *As right as my leg*, as right as may be. *To put the boot on the other leg*, to turn the tables. *To stretch one's legs*, to take a walk: hence, *leg-stretcher* (q.v.), a drink. *To make indentures with one's legs*, to be drunk: see Screwed. *More belongs to marriage than four bare legs in a bed*, said of an engagement or wedding of a portionless couple.

Leg-and-leg. The state of the game when each player has won a leg (q.v.), horse-and-horse (q.v.).

Leg-bags. 1. Stockings; and, 2. trousers.

Leg-bail (or **Leg-bail and land security**). Escape from custody: Fr., *lever le pied* (1757).

Legem pone. Money: generic: see

Rhino. [*Nares*: The origin of the phrase is doubtless this: The first psalm for the twenty-fifth day of the month has the title Legem pone, being the first words of the Latin version. This psalm is the fifth portion of the 119th psalm, and, being constantly used on the first great pay day of the year, March 25, was easily connected with the idea of payment, while the laudable practice of daily attendance on the public service was continued.] (1557).

Leger. A cant term for a Londoner who formerly bought coals of the country colliers at so much a sack, and made his chief profit by using smaller sacks, making pretence he was a country collier. This was termed legering.

Legerdemain. Sleight of hand (1535).

Legged. In irons.

Legger (or **Sham Legger**). A cheat who pretends to sell smuggled goods, but in reality only deals in shopkeepers' old and damaged wares.

Leggings. Stockings.

Leggism. The character, practices, or manners of a leg (q.v.).

Leggy. Long-legged (1848).

Legitimate. 1. Flat-racing as distinguished from steeple-chasing or hurdle-racing; and, 2. drama—especially the Shakespearean — as opposed to burlesque.

Leglin-girth. *To cast a leglingirth*, to be got with child.

Leg of mutton. A sheep's trotter. As adj., leg-of-mutton shaped; as in the case of sleeves, whiskers, sails, etc.

Leg of mutton Fist. See Mutton fist.

Leg of the Law. A lawyer: also *limb of the law.*

Legs-and-arms. Bodiless beer: for synonyms, see Drinks and Swipes.

Leg-shaker. A dancer: Fr., *gambilleur.*

Legshire. The Isle of Man: in allusion to the heraldic bearings.

Leg-stretcher. A drink: i.e. an inducement or a pretext for going out: see Go.

Lemon Jolly. See Colly molly.

Lend. A loan: e.g. For the lend of the ass you might give me the mill (*Old Ballad*).

Length. 1. Six months' imprisonment: see Dose. 2. Forty-two lines (theatrical) (1781). *To get the length of one's foot*, to fascinate, understand how to manage a person.

Lenten-faced. Starved, sad-looking (1621).

Lenten-fare. Spare diet.

Ler-ac-am. Mackerel.

Lericompoop (**Leripup**, **Leripoop**, or **Luripup**). Originally an academical scarf or hood. Hence (1) knowledge or acuteness; (2) a man or woman of parts; (3) a swindle, jest, or trick; and (4) a cheat, buffon, or jester. Thence, *to play one's liripups*, (1) to undergo examination for a degree; and (2) to play the fool (from the contempt into which scholastic subtleties had in the end to fall). Also as verb, to deceive, cheat (1584).

Lesson. See Simple Arithmetic.

Let. *Let alone*, much less, not mentioning (1831). *To let the cat out of the bag*, to reveal a secret, put one's foot in it: see Cat. *To let daylight into*, to stab, shoot, kill. *To let down gently* (or *easy*), (1) to be lenient (1836); (2) to disappoint, rebuff. *To let drive*, to aim a blow, attack (1593). *To let fly*, to aim at, strike (1647). *To let go the painter*: see Painter. *To let in*, (1) to deceive, victimise, cheat; (2) to give custom to, patronise, consort with. *To let into*, to attack, beat, abuse. *To let off steam*: see Steam. *To let on*, to betray, admit, seem (1725). *To let oneself loose*, to speak, launch out, abandon restraint. *To let out*, (1) to disclose; (2) to speak strongly; (3) to strike out; (4) to do, a general verb of action. *To let out a reef*, to loosen one's clothes after a meal: Fr., *lâcher un cran*. *To let rip*: see Rip. *To let slide*: see Slide. *To let up*, to stop: also (as subs.) *let up* (q.v.). *To let the finger ride the thumb too often*, to get drunk: see Screwed. For other combinations see Disinfect, Flicker, In, Marks, Monkey, Play, Pockets, Slide, Stimulate, Tucks, Up, etc.

Let-down. A decline in circumstances, come down.

Lets. *No lets*, no hindrances.

Letter. *Letter-in-the-post-office*: see Flag. *To go on the letter Q*, to play billiards.

Lettered. Branded, burnt in the hand.

Letter-racket. Men or women of genteel address, going about to respectable houses with a letter or statement, detailing some case of extreme distress, as shipwreck, sufferings by fire, etc., by which many benevolent but credulous persons are induced to relieve the fictitious wants of the impostors (*Grose*).

Letty. A bed, a lodging: see Kip. Also verbally, to lodge.

Let-up. 1. A pause, breach. 2. (Stock Exchange). A sudden disappearance of artificial causes of depression.

Levant. To abscond. *To do* (*throw*, or *run*) *a levant* (gaming), to stake and skip (q.v.): Fr., *faire voile en Levant*: It., *andare in Levante*. Also (1714) to play without any money in one's pocket. *Levant me!* an imprecation: cf. Blow me (1760).

Levanter. A defaulting debtor, welsher (q.v.) (1598).

Level. *To work* (or *act*) *on a broad level*, to be stable, trustworthy. *Broad-level price*, the lowest fixed price.

Level-best. The best one can do, the utmost of one's power.

Level-headed. Well-balanced, steady, judicious.

Levite. 1. A parson, devil-doger (q.v.) (1663). 2. A fashionable dress for women (*c.* 1780): a man's bedgown bound round with a belt (*Horace Walpole*).

Levy. 1. A shilling. 2. Elevenpence: in the State of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, the Spanish real, or eighth part of a dollar, or twelve and a half cents: sometimes called an elevenpenny bit (*Bartlett*).

Leystall. See Laystall.

Liar. *I'm something of a liar myself*, a retort upon a Munchausen (q.v.).

Lib. 1. Sleep. *Long lib*, death (1622). 2. A bank-note: see Flimsy. As verb, (1) to lie down: also Lyp (1572); (2) To castrate (1598).

Libbeg (or **Lybbeg**). A bed (1573).

Libben. A private house: cf. Libken (1696).

Liberty-hall. A house where every one can do his pleasure (1773).

Lib-ken (or **Lypken**). Orig. (*Harman*), a house to lie in, a lodging house.

Lick. 1. A blow: hence, *his licks*, a thrashing (1701). 2. A stroke, effort: *big licks*, hard work (1847). 3. A drinking bout. As verb, (1) to beat (1573); (2) to surpass, vanquish, puzzle, astound: Fr., *bouler*; (3) to sleek, tittivate (q.v.), smooth over, (with varnish, rouge, and so forth), fashion (1594); (4) to coax. *To lick into shape*, to fashion, train: from the popular idea that the bear's young are born shapeless and are licked into shape by the dam (1663). *To lick spittle*, to fawn upon: hence, *lickspittle*, a parasite or talebearer. *A lick and a promise*, a piece of slovenliness. *To lick the eye*, to be well pleased. *A lick and a smell*, a dog's portion (q.v.). *To lick the trencher*, to play the parasite (1608). *To lick one's dish*, to drink (*Ray*).

Lick-box (**dish, fingers, pan, pot, sauce,** or **trencher**). A scullion, sloven, parasite, toadeater: a general epithet of abuse (1571).

Licker. Anything monstrous (excessive, or unusual), whopper (q.v.), thumper (q.v.), spanker (q.v.).

Lickety-split. Headlong, violently, full-chisel (q.v.).

Licking. A thrashing, tanning (1820).

Lick-penny. An extortioner (1450).

Lick-spigot. A tapster (1599).

Lick-spittle. A toady: Fr., *lèche-bottes*: also as verb (1629).

Lie. See Whole cloth and White lie. As verb, to be in pawn: see Pop (1609). *To lie low*, to conceal one's thought, or intentions: also to keep to one's bed (1847). *To lie off*, to make a waiting race. *To lie out of one's ground*, to lie off too long, so as to be unable to recover lost ground. *To lie around loose*, to loaf, be out of employment. *To lie flat*: see Lie low, *To lie like truth*, to lie with verisimilitude and propriety. *To lie down*, to be brought to bed (1582). *To lie in*, to keep one's room when supposed to be out on leave (Royal Military Academy). *Lie with a latchet* (or *lie made of whole cloth*), an out and out falsehood: also *lie laid on with a trowel*. *A lie nailed to the counter*, a detected falsehood or slander.

Lie-abed. A sluggard (1763).

Life. See Bet and Death.

Life-preserver. A slung shot (*Matsell*).

Lifer. 1. Transportation for life: Fr., *fagot à perte de vue*, *bonnet vert à perpète*. 2. Penal servitude for life.

Lift. 1. A thief (q.v.): also *lifter* (1592). 2. A theft, plunder, swag (q.v.): also *lifting* (1592). 3. Assistance in general as a lift in a vehicle; a *lift* in life: also *lifting* (1711). 4. A kick. As verb, (1) to seal, convey (q.v.); specifically to steal cattle and horses (1591); (2) to transfer; (3) to help; (4) to break (in a walking race) into an unfair pace. *To lift one's hand* (*elbow, little finger*, etc.), to drink: also see Leg: see Drinks (*Grose*). *To lift hair*, to scalp (1848). *On the lift*, on the move, ready to depart.

Lifter. 1. A thief (q.v.): see Lift. 2. In pl., a crutch (1696).

Lift-leg. Strong ale, stingo (q.v.).

Lig. 1. A bed (*New Cant Dict.*): also a bedstead (*Matsell*). 2. A lie.

Ligby. A bedfellow: specifically a concubine: cf. Ludby and Loteby (1632).

Light. 1. Credit: *to get a light*, to get credit; *to have one's light put out*, to exhaust one's credit, go stony (q.v.). 2. A model, example: generally shining light. 3. In pl., the eyes: also daylights (q.v.) and top-lights (q.v.) (1820). 4. In pl., a fool: see Buffle. As adj., wanton: hence, *light-given*, lewd of habit; *light-heeled* (q.v.); *light-o'-love* (q.v.); *light-skirts* (q.v.); and so forth (1538). *To put out one's light*, to kill (1602). *To hold a light* (or *candle*) *to the devil*: see Devil. *To light the lumper*: see Lumper. *To light out*, to leave secretly and hastily, as when pursued by an enemy.

Light-blue. Gin: see Drinks (1820).

Light-bob. 1. A light infantry soldier: see Mud-crusher (1785). 2. In pl., The Forty-third Foot, now the first battalion Oxfordshire Light Infantry.

Lighter. See Lump.

Light-fantastic. Dancing: e.g. *to work the light fantastic*, Come and trip it as you go, On the light fantastic toe (*Milton*): Fr., *sauterie*.

Light-feeder. A silver spoon.

Light-fingered. Dextrous in stealing, given to thieving (1560).

Light-frigate. A wanton (*B. E.*).

Light-heeled. 1. Wanton (1633); 2. Slothful: e.g. A light-heeled mother maketh a heavy-heeled daughter: because she doth all the work herself, and her daughter meantime sitting idle, contracts a habit of sloth: cf. *Mère piteuse fait sa fille rogneuse*, a tender mother breeds a scabby daughter (*Ray*).

Light-heels. See Light-skirts.

Light-house. A red-nosed man (*Grose*). Thou art our Admiral, thou bearest the lantern in the poop ('1 Hen. IV.,' III. iii.).

Light-infantry. Fleas, F sharps (q.v.): cf. Heavy Dragoons: Fr., *sauterelle* and *sauteuse*.

Lightmans. The day: cf. Darkmans, night: Fr., *matois*; It., *specchio* (1573).

Lightness. Wantonness: see Light (1614).

Lightning. Gin: *flash of lightning* (or *clap of thunder*), a glass of gin: see Drinks (1780).

Light-o'-love. A wanton (1589).

Light-skirts. A strumpet: also Lightheels (1602).

Light-troops. Lice (1823).

Light-weight. 1. Of little importance, weak. 2. Under twelve stone (*Grose*)

Light-wet. Gin: see Drinks (1822).

Like. This word enters into numerous combinations indicating energetic, rapid, or intense action, motion, and thought. The chief are:—Like (or as) anything; a basket of chips, beans, billy-ho, a bird, blazes, boots, or old boots, bricks, or a thousand, or a cartload, of bricks, a dog in a fair, fun, a house on fire, hell, hot cake, mad, one o'clock, shit to a shovel, a shot, a streak, thunder, the very devil, winkey or winky (1542). *Like one o'clock half struck*, hesitatingly. *Like a whale*: see Whale. *Like Christmas beef*: see Beef. *Like a birch-broom in a fit*: see Birch-broom. *I like that!* a derisive answer to a questionable statement: e.g. I am a capital pedestrian, I like that! *You talk like a halfpenny book* (or *penny book*), said in derision of a fluent or affected speaker.

Likeness. A phrase used by thieves when the officers are examining their countenances; as, the traps are taking our likeness (*Grose*).

Lil (or **Lill**). A book, document of any kind, a five pound note: in America a dollar (1821).

Lilliputian. A dwarf (1823).

Lily-Benjamin. A white greatcoat: see Benjamin.

Lily-liver. A coward.

Lily-livered. Cowardly, dastardly (1605).

Lily of St. Clements. See St. Clements.

Lily-shallow. A white driving hat (*Grose*).

Lilywhite. 1. A negro, chimney-sweep (1696). 2. In pl., the Seventeenth Foot, now the Leicestershire Regiment: from its facings: also Bengal Tigers (q.v.). Also, 3. the Fifty-ninth Foot, now the second battalion East Lancashire Regiment.

Lillywhite Groat. A shilling: see Rhino.

Limb. 1. A mischievous child, imp: also (in depreciation of older persons): e.g. Limb of Satan, etc. 2. A leg: spec. American: 'if we know anything of English conversation or letters, we speedily find out, even if stone blind, that British men and women have arms and legs, but in Canada . . . . one would learn that both sexes have limbs of some sort . . . . but we could not tell whether their limbs were used to stand on or hold by' (*Geikie*). 3. In pl., a gawk: also Duke (or Duchess) of Limbs (1785). As verb, to cheat. *Limb of the law,* a lawyer or lawyer's clerk: also Limb (1762).

Limbo. 1. A prison, place of confinement: from *limbus patrum,* purgatory (1553). 2. A pawnshop, uncle's (q.v.), *in limbo,* in pawn (1693).

Lime-basket. *To be dry as a lime-basket,* to be very dry, spit sixpences (q.v.): also to have hot coppers (q.v.) (1838).

Lime-juice. A young man newly arrived in the colonies from the old country is styled a new chum or a lime-juice.

Limejuicer. A British ship or sailor: in allusion to the lime-juice served out as an anti-scorbutic.

Limetwig. 1. A snare, trick: hence, 2. any means of swindling: also as adj. (1592).

Limlifter. A landlubber (q.v.) (1598).

Limping-Jesus. A lameter, dot-and-carry-one (q.v.).

Lindabrides. A wanton (1663).

Line. 1. A calling, profession, lay (q.v.) (1655). 2. A hoax, fool-trap. 3. In pl., a marriage certificate. 4. In pl., reins; ribbons (q.v.). *On the line,* hung on the line at the Royal Academy. As verb, to fill: as *to line one's stomach,* to eat; *to line one's pockets,* to take money. *A line of the old author,* a dram of brandy: see Go (1696). *To get into* (or *on*) *a line,* to engage in conversation while a confederate is robbing the person or premises; to banter or jest with a man by amusing him with false assurances or professions, is also termed stringing him, getting him in tow, or on a *line*; to keep anybody in suspense on any subject without coming to a decision is called keeping him in tow, in a string, or in a tow-line: *to cut the line,* or the string, is to put an end to the suspense in which you have kept any one, by telling him the plain truth, coming to a final decision, etc.: a person who has been telling another a long story, until he is tired, or conceives his auditor has been all the while secretly laughing at him, will say at last, I've just dropped down, you've had me in a fine line or string, I think it's time to cut it. On the other hand, the auditor, having the same opinion on his part, would say, Come, I believe you want to string me all night, I wish you'd cut it; meaning, conclude the story at once. *To line one's jacket*: see Jacket. *The devil's regiment of the line,* felons, convicts, the police-van corps.

Line-age. Payment by line.

Linen. *The linen,* the stage curtain, the rag (q.v.). *To wrap up in clean linen,* to deliver sordid or smutty (q.v.) matter in decent language (*Ray*). *To cool in one's linen,* to die.

Linen-arbor. A dormitory.

Linen-armourer. A tailor: see Snip (1696).

Linen-draper. Paper.

Linenopolis. Belfast: cf. Cottonopolis.

Liner. 1. A casual reporter, paid by lineage (q.v.): short for penny-a-liner. 2. A picture hung on the line (q.v.).

Lingo. A foreign language, unintelligible speech (1699).

Lingua Franca. Specifically the corrupt Italian (dating from the period of the Genoese and Venetian supremacy) employed as the language of commercial intercourse with the Levant: other examples of trade jargon are Hindustani in India, Swahilli and Houssa in Africa, Pidgin in China, and Chinook in America (1619).

Lining. See Inside lining (1632).

Link. To turn out a pocket (1821).

Linsey-woolsey. Neither one thing nor the other (1592).

Lint-scraper. A surgeon: cf. Crocus and Squirt: also Lint (1763).

Lion. 1. Polite men of the town give the name of a lion to any one that is a great man's spy (*Guardian*, 1713). 2. An object (animate or inanimate) of interest. *To see the lions*, to go sight-seeing (1590). 3. The name given by the gownsmen of Oxford, to inhabitants or visitors. 4. A hare: We call it a lion because of the game laws (*Lytton*, 'Pelham'). 5. In pl., the Fourth Foot, now the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment: from its ancient badge. As verb, to make a loud noise, substitute noise for good sense, frighten, bluff. *Cotswold lion*, a sheep: see Cotsold and Lammermoor lion (1537). *To tip the lion*, to squeeze the nose flat to the face with the thumb. *To put one's head into the lion's mouth*, to put oneself into a desperate position. *As valiant as an Essex lion*, as valiant as a calf (*Ray*).

Lion-drunk. 'Now have we not one or two kinde of drunkards onely, but eight kinde . . . The second is lion drunk, and he flings the pots about the house . . . breakes the glasse windows with his dagger, and is apt to quarrele with any man that speaks to him' (*Nashe*).

Lioness. 1. A female celebrity, woman of note (1825). 2. A lady visitor at Oxford, especially at Commemoration. 3. A wanton (1596).

Lion- (or Leo-) hunter. One who runs after celebrities: popularised by *Dickens* in the Mrs. Leo Hunter of 'Pickwick.'

Lionism. Attracting attention as a lion (q.v.); also, sight-seeing.

Lionize. 1. To go sight-seeing: also To play the lion (q.v.). 2. To make much of, to treat as a lion (q.v.). 3. To show the sights of a place, play the cicerone. 4. To go sight-seeing.

Lion's Provider. A sycophant, jackal (q.v.).

Lion's Share. The bigger part.

Lip. Impudence, sauce (q.v.). *To give lip*, to cheek (q.v.) (1821). As verb, (1) to sing: Fr., *rossignoler*; (2) to speak (1789). *To button up the lip* (or *mouth*), to silence. *Button your lip!* hold your tongue, stow it (q.v.) (1747). *To fall betwixt cup and lip*: see Slip. *To keep* (or *carry*) *a stiff upper lip*, to be self-reliant under difficulties, unflinching in the attainment of an object (1833). *To make a lip*, to mock, grimace (1610).

Lip-clap. A kiss: also Lip-favour (1592).

Lipey. A mode of address: e.g. Whatcher, lipey!

Lip-labour (or **work**). 1. Talk, jaw (q.v.): also flattery (1575). 2. Kissing (1582).

Lip-salve (or **wash**). Flattery (1594).

Liquid-fire. Bad whisky: see Drinks.

Liquor. A drink. As verb, to drink, treat: generally, *to liquor up*: also *to liquor one's boots* (q.v.) (1607). which also, among Roman Catholics, means to administer the extreme unction. *In liquor*, the worse for drink: see Screwed (1756).

Liquor-pond Street. *To come from Liquor-pond Street*, to be drunk: see Screwed (1828).

Lispers. The teeth: see Grinders (1800).

List. See Add.

Listeners. The ears (1827).

Listman. A ready-money bookmaker, betting according to prices on a list exhibited beside him.

Litter. A muddle (*B. E.*).

Little. Mean, paltry, contemptible (*B. E.*).

Little Alderman. A jemmy (q.v.) made in sections: see Alderman.

Little Barbary. Wapping (*B. E.*).

Little Ben. A waistcoat: see Benjamin.

Little Bird. See Bird.

Little Breeches. A familiar appellation for a boy.

Little Church around the Corner. A drinking saloon: see Lush-crib.

Little clergyman. A young chimney-sweep (*Grose*).

Little Devil. See Devil.

Little-ease. The pillory, stocks (or any similar mode of punishment), prison-cell.

Little England. Barbadoes: see Bim.

Little Englander. An anti-Jingo (q.v.); an opponent of the Imperial idea.

Little Fighting Fours. The Forty-fourth Foot, now the Essex Regiment: from the prowess of its men, who are of small stature.

Little-finger. *To cock one's little finger*, to drink much and often: see Screwed.

Little-go. The public examination which students at the English Universities have to pass in the second year of residence: also called the previous examination (as preceding the final one for a degree), and, at Oxford, smalls (q.v.).

Little-go-vale. Orderly step to the first examination (*Grose*).

Little-guid. The devil, skipper (q.v.).

Little-joker. The pea under the thimble in the thimble-rigging game. See also Joker, sense 3.

Little-side (Rugby). A term applied to all games, organised between houses only.

Little-snakesman. A young thief passed into a house through a window so that he may open the door to the gang (1781).

Little Spot. See Spot.

Little William. A bill of exchange.

Live. Energetic, active, intelligent. *To live under the cat's paw*: see Cat's-paw. *To live to the door*, to live up to one's means.

Live-eels. The fields.

Live-horse. Work done over and above that included in the week's charge-sheet: cf. Dead-horse.

Live-lumber. Landsmen on board ship (*Grose*).

Livener. A morning dram, pick-me-up (q.v.): see Go.

Liver. See Curl.

Liverpool-button. A kind of toggle used by sailors when they lose a button.

Liverpool Blues. The Seventy-ninth Foot (1778-84).

Liverpool Tailor. A tramping workman, one who sits with his coat and hat on, ready for the road.

Liverpudlian. A native or inhabitant of Liverpool.

Live-stock. Fleas, bugs, lice—all body vermin (*Grose*).

Liza. *Outside Liza!* Be off!

Load. An excess of food or drink: cf. Jag. *Loaded*, drunk: also *loaded for bears* (or *to the gunwales*) (1767). As verb, (1) to introduce well-greased shot into the throat of a roaring or broken-winded horse: this conceals the defect for a few hours, during which a sale is effected; (2) (Stock Exchange), to buy heavily: *to unload*, to sell freely. *Load of hay*, a day. *Like a load of bricks*: see Like. *To lay on load*, to thrash (1537).

Loaf. 1. A lounge, dawdle, idling: e.g. to do a loaf. 2. See Loaves and Fishes. As verb, (1) to lounge, idle, mike (q.v.): Fr., *louper* and *gouspiner*; (2) to borrow, especially with no intention of return. *To be in bad loaf*, to be in a disagreeable situation, in trouble (*Grose*) (1785).

Loafer. An idler. English synonyms: baker, beat, bummer, crow-eater, draw-latch, flunk, ham-fatter, hayseed, heeler, inspector of pavements, lamb, Laurence (or lazy Laurence), lazybones, miker, moucher, practical politician, Q.H.B., raff, scow-banker, striker, wood-and-water Joey: see Cadger.

Loaferish. Lounging.

Loafing. Aimless lounging: Fr., *loupe*. As adj., lounging.

Loaver. Generic for money: see Rhino.

Loaves and Fishes. Emolument, profit, temporal benefits: from John vi. 26 (1787).

Lob (or **Lobb**). 1. Any receptacle —box, till, etc. (1718). 2. A blockhead, a lubber: see Buffle (1577). 3. A large lump. 4. A slow underhand ball; delivered low and falling heavily, its course a decided curve: at Winchester, *lob*=yorker (q.v.). See also snorter, undergrounder, trimmer, teapot, swiper, stringer, grubber, yorker. 5. The head: see Crumpet. *To frisk* (*dip*, *pinch*, or *sneak*) *a lob*, to rob a till. *To go on the lob*, to go into a shop for change and to steal some: hence *lob-sneaking*, robbing tills; *lob-crawler*, a till-thief (1742). As verb, (1) to droop, sprawl (1599); (2) to bowl a ball as a lob (q.v.).

Lobcock. A blockhead: see Buffle: also adj. (1534).

Lobkin. A house, a lodging: see Lipken (1662).

Loblolly. 1. A lubber, lout, fool: see Buffle (1604). 2. Water-gruel, spoon-meat (1621).

Loblolly-boy. A surgeon's servant on board a man-of-war: in America, a bayman or nurse (q.v.) (1617).

Lobs. 1. An assistant watcher, under-gamekeeper. 2. An abbreviation of lobster (q.v.). As intj., a signal of a master's approach.

Lobscouse. A hash of meat and vegetables, olio, gallimaufrey (q.v.): see Soap-and-bullion. Other nautical food names (mostly derisive) are choke-dog, daddy funk, dead horse, dogbody, dough Jehovahs, hishee-hashee, measles, sea-pie, soft tack, soap-and-bullion, tommy, twice-laid.

Lobscouser. A sailor: i.e. an eater of lobscouse (q.v.).

Lobsneak (or **-crawler**) 1. A till-robber, a till-sneak (q.v.). 2. A lob (q.v.).

Lobsneaking. Till-robbing: Fr., *coup de radin.*

Lob's-pound. A prison, pound, the stocks: generic for any place of confinement (1603).

Lobster. A soldier. The nickname of lobsters, now *mis*appled to soldiers, seems to have been first applied to Sir A. Hazilrigg's regiment of cavalry, completely armed with corslets (*Somers,* 1642). Also *boiled lobster,* in contradistinction to raw lobster (q.v.), which formerly was a sailor. *Unboiled-lobster* (q.v.) also, a policeman. A bowler of lobs (q.v.). As verb (Winchester College), to cry. [*Notions*: Probably a variation of lowster or louster (Hants) to make any unpleasant noise]. *To boil one's lobster,* means for a churchman to turn soldier; lobsters, which are of a bluish-black, being made red by boiling: Butler's ingenious simile will occur to the reader:—When, like a lobster boiled, the morn From black to red began to turn.

Lobster-box. A barrack; also a transport.

Lobster-cart. *To upset one's lobster-cart,* to knock one down: see Apple-cart.

Lobtail. To sport or play: as a whale, by lifting his flukes, and bringing them down flat on the water.

Local. An item of news of local interest, a chip (q.v.).

Lock. 1. The magazine or warehouse whither the thieves carry stolen goods to be secured (*B. E.*). 2. A receiver of stolen goods, a fence (q.v.): also *Lock-all-fast* (1696). 3. A line of business or conduct: cf. Lurk. 4. See Lovelock.

Lockees (Westminster School). Lockhouse.

Locker. 1. A thieves' middleman (1718). 2. A bar-room, groggery (q.v.). *To be laid in the locker,* to die: see Hop the twig. For synonyms see Aloft. *Davy Jones' locker*: see Davy Jones. *Shot in the locker*: see Shot.

Lockeram-jaw'd (or **Lockram-jawed**). Thin-faced, lanthorn-jawed (q.v.) (*B. E.*).

Locksmith's Daughter. A key: also *blacksmith's daughter* (*Grose*). English synonyms: betty, blacksmith's daughter (or wife), gilkes (skeleton keys), Jack-in-the-box, screw, sket, twirl.

Lock-up-chovey. A covered cart (*Grose*).

Lock-up House. A spunging house, a public-house kept by sheriff's officers, to which they convey the persons they have arrested, where they practise every species of imposition and extortion with impunity; also houses kept by agents or crimps, who inlist, or rather trepan men to serve the East India or African company as soldiers (*Grose*).

Lock-ups (Harrow School). Detention in study.

Loco-foco. 1. A self-lighting match or cigar. 2. A nickname of the American Democratic party (1834-5). [At a meeting held in Tammany Hall the chairman left his seat, and the lights were suddenly extinguished with a view to breaking up the meeting. Thereupon a section of the audience relighted the lights by means of their loco-focos and continued the meeting]: also as adj., Democratic, belonging to the loco-foco party.

Locomote. To walk (1847).

Locomotive. 1. A mixed hot drink: of Burgundy, curaçoa, yolks, honey, and cloves. 2. In pl., the legs, pins (q.v.).

Locomotive Tailor. A tramping workman.

Locust. 1. Laudanum. 2. A truncheon. As verb, to put to sleep with chloroform: a thief's term.

Lodger. 1. A convict waiting for his discharge. 2. A person of no account: e.g. only a lodger: cf. Hog.

Lodging-slum. Hiring furnished

lodgings and robbing them of all portables of value (*Grose*).

Log. The last boy of his form or house.

Loge. A watch, clock: i.e. Fr., *hortoge* (1696).

Loges. 'A passe or warrant: a Feager of loges, one that beggeth with false passes' (*Rowlands*, 1610).

Loggerhead. A blockhead: see Buffle (1589). As adj., stupid: also Loggerheaded (q.v.) (1596). *To be at* (or *come to*) *loggerheads*, to quarrel, come to blows (1678). *Loggerheaded*, blockheaded: also *log-headed* (1567).

Logie. 1. Sham jewellery: from David Logie, the inventor. 2. (Winchester School). Sewage.

Log-roller. 1. A conditional ally in passing a bill through the Legislature without reference to the merits or demerits of the measure so advanced; and, 2. a venal critic, assistant, or friend: see Log-rolling.

Log-rolling. Co-operation in the pursuit of money, business, or praise.

Logy. Dull.

Loll. 1. A favourite child (*Grose*). 2. See Lollpoop. As verb, to lounge, lie lazily, sprawl (1362).

Loller. See Lollpoop.

Lollipop (or Lollypop). A sweetmeat: also *lolly*.

Lollop. To lounge about, loaf: hence, a lazybones, loafer; *lollopy*, lazy (1745).

Lollop-fever. Laziness.

Lolloping. Idle, lounging, slovenly.

Lollpoop (Loll, or Loller). A lazy, idle drone (*Grose*).

Loll-tongue. *To play a game at loll-tongue*, to be salivated (*Grose*).

Lolly. 1. The head: see Crumpet. 2. See Lollipop.

Lollybanger. A ship's cook: see Loblolly.

Lombard-fever. The idles, loafing (1767).

Lombard St. *All Lombard Street to a china orange*, said of a certainty, the longest possible odds. There are several of these fanciful forms of betting—Chelsea College to a sentry-box, Pompey's pillar to a stick of sealing-wax, etc., etc.

London. *To turn* (or *put*) *the best side to London*, to show one's best: cf. Humphrey's toppers.

London-ivy (or London Particular). A thick fog.

London Ordinary. The beach at Brighton: where trippers feed.

Lone-star State. Texas: from the flag, which has a single star in the centre.

Long. 1. A bull (q.v.); cf. Short. 2. A rifle: cf. Short, a revolver. 3. See John Long. As adj., tall (1189). *The long*, the summer vacation. *The longs* (Oxford University), the latrines at Brasenose: built by Lady Long. As adj., heavy, great: as a long price, long odds, etc., etc. *The long and the short of it*, the sum of a matter, the whole: see Long attachment. *Long in the mouth*, tough. *Long in the tooth*, elderly.

Long Acre. A baker, burn-crust (q.v.).

Long-attachment. A tall man and short woman walking together, or *vice versa*: also the long and the short of it.

Long-bill. A long term of imprisonment. *Short-bill*, a short term.

Long-bit. A defaced 20 cent piece (*Matsell*); also 15 cents in Western U.S. (*Century*). *Short-bit*, 10 cents (*Century*).

Long-bow. *To draw* (or *pull*) *the long bow*, to tell improbable stories. Hence, *long-bow man*, a liar. English synonyms: to climb a steep hill, to come (or cut) it strong (or fat, or thick), to embroider, to gammon (q.v.), to lay it on thick, to put on the pot, to pull a leg, to slop over.

Long Chalk. *By a long chalk*, by far, in a large measure.

Long-crown. A clever fellow: as in the proverb, That caps long-crown, and he capped the devil.

Long-dispar (Winchester College). There were six dispars or portions to a shoulder, and eight to a leg of mutton, the other joints being divided in like proportion. All these dispars had different names; the thick slice out of the centre of the leg was called a middle cut . . . the ribs, racks, the loin, long dispars (*Mansfield*).

Long Drink. A considerable quantity, as compared to a nip (q.v.), i.e. a drop of short (q.v.).

Long-ear. 1. A reading man; a sober student: see Short-ear. 2. In pl., a donkey, moke.

Long Eliza. The trade term for

certain blue and white vases ornamented with figures of tall thin china-women, is a name derived undoubtedly from the German or Dutch. Our sailors and traders called certain Chinese vases, from the figures which distinguished them, lange Lischen (tall Lizzies), and the English sailors and traders promptly translated this into long Elizas.

Long-faced One. A horse: see Prad.

Long-feathers. Straw, strommel (q.v.): Fr., *plume de Beauce.*

Long-firm. A body of phantom capitalists who issue large orders to supply an infinite variety of goods—from herrings to harmoniums, from cotton-twist to pictures; the ledger of the long firm has room for the most multifarious transactions. The rule of procedure with the long firm is simple: a noble order, a moderate sum paid on account, bills for the remainder, an order to deliver the goods at some country warehouse or depository—and exit. In the next town he changes his name and his partners, and repeats the operation. From Liverpool and Manchester he flings the bait to London tradesmen, and now and then a fish is hooked. Fr., *bande noire.* A somewhat similar mode of swindling is described in Parker's *View of Society* (ii. 33, 1781).

Long-fork (Winchester College). A piece of stick serving as a toasting fork.

Long-gallery. Throwing, or rather trundling, the dice the whole length of the board.

Long-ghost. A gawk: see Lamp-post.

Long-glass (Eton College). A glass nearly a yard long, shaped like the horn of a stage-coach guard, and with a hollow globe instead of a foot. It held a quart of beer, and the ceremony of drinking out of it constituted an initiation into the higher circles of Etonian swelldom. There was long-glass drinking once or twice a week during the summer half. The *invités* attended in an upper room of Tap after two, and each, before the long glass was handed to him, had a napkin tied round his neck. It was considered a grand thing to drain the glass without removing it from the lips, and without spilling any of its contents. This was difficult, because when the contents of the tubular portion of the glass had been sucked down, the beer in the globe would remain for a moment as if congealed there: then if the drinker tilted the glass up a little, and shook it, the motionless beer would give a gurgle and come with a sudden rush all over his face. There was a way of holding the long glass at a certain angle by which catastrophes were avoided. Some boys could toss off their quart of ale in quite superior style, and I may as well remark that these clever fellows could do little else (*Brinsley Richards*).

Long-haired Chum. A female friend, sweetheart.

Long-headed. Shrewd, far-seeing, clever: also *long-headedness* (1696).

Long-hogs. The first growth of wool on a sheep.

Long-home. The grave (1701).

Long-hope. At Oxford . . . the symbol of long expectations in studying for a degree (*Grose*).

Long-lady. A farthing candle.

Long-lane. The throat: see Gutter-alley. *For the long lane,* said when a thing is borrowed without intention of repayment.

Long-legs (or **Long-'un**). A tall man or woman: see Lamp-post.

Long-meg. A very tall woman (*B. E.*).

Long-oats. A broom or fork-handle used to belabour a horse: cf. Thorley's food for cattle.

Long-one. A hare: cf. Long-tail.

Long-paper (Winchester). Paper for writing tasks on.

Long-pig. Human flesh when exposed for sale.

Long-robe. A lawyer (1611).

Long-row. See Hoe.

Longs and Shorts (also **Longs and Broads**). Cards so manufactured that all above the eight are a trifle longer than those below it: nothing under an eight can be cut, and the chances against turning up an honour at whist are reduced to two to one: cf. Brief and Concave.

Long-sauce. Beets, parsnips, or carrots, in contradistinction to short-sauce (q.v.), onions, turnips, etc.: an old English usage.

Long-shanks. A tall man: see Lamp-post (*B. E.*).

Long-shore Butcher. A coast-guardsman, shingle-tramper (q.v.).

Long-shot. A bet made at large odds: as 100 to 1 on anything not in favour.

Long-sleeved Top. A silk hat (1889).

Long-sleeved 'un. A long glass: Fr., *wagon*.

Long-stomach. A voracious eater, wolfer (q.v.) (*Grose*).

Long-tail. 1. A greyhound: hence, as dogs unqualified to hunt were curtailed, gentlefolk (1596). 2. A pheasant. 3. A native of Kent (1628). 4. A canting term for one or another (*Johnson*).

Long-tailed. Of gentle birth, good standing (1662).

Long-tailed Beggar. A cat. English synonyms: baudrons (Scots'), gib, grimalkin, masheen, nimshod, puss, Thomas, Tyb.

Long-tailed Finnips (or Long-tailed 'uns). Banknotes for high amounts.

Long-tea. Tea poured from a pot held high.

Long-tongue. A tale-bearer, chatter-box (1550).

Long-tongued. Talkative (1593).

Long-togs. Shore-going clothes in general, and dress-clothes in particular.

Long-tot. A long set of figures for addition: as in examinations.

Long-winded. Diffuse, protracted, loquacious.

Lonsdale's Ninepins. The nine boroughs for which Lord Lonsdale used to send up members to St. Stephens.

Loo. 1. A company, community (*Grose*). 2. A half mask. As verb, to vanquish.

Looby. A fool, idle dullard: see Buffle (1362).

Look. *To look a gift horse in the mouth*, to criticise a present or favour: from ascertaining the age of horses by looking at their teeth (1663). *To look alive*, to bestir oneself, be on the alert: also *to look slimy*. *To look as if butter would not melt in one's mouth*: see Butter. *To look at the maker's name*, to drain (a glass) to the bottom, bite one's name in the pot (q.v.). *To look babies* (or *for cupids*) *in the eyes*, to look closely and amorously into the eyes for the reflected figures (1593). *To look big*: see Big. *To look blue*: see Blue. *To look botty*: see Botty. *To look down one's nose*, to look glum, have the blues (q.v.). *To look lively*, to be drunk: see Screwed. *To look for a needle in a bottle of hay* (or *in a haystack*), to seek what it is impossible to find: bottle, a quantity of hay or grass tied or bundled up: Fr., *botte* (1592). *To look sharp*, (1) to exercise great vigilance, be extremely careful (1711); (2) to be quick, make haste. *To look through a glass*, to get drunk: see Screwed. *To look towards one*, to drink one's health. *To look up*, (1) to show a tendency to improvement, recover; (2) to pay a visit.

Look-in. A chance of success.

Looking-glass. A chamber pot: see It (1696). *To look on*, said of a horse not meant to do its best. *To look nine ways for Sundays*, to squint: Fr., *vendre des guignes*.

Loon (Loun, or Lown). A lout, varlet, rogue (1500). *To play the loon*, to play the wanton (1568).

Loonslate (or Loonslatt). Thirteen pence halfpenny: cf. Hangman's wages (*B. E.*).

Loony (or Luny). Crazy: short for lunatic: also a fool, natural: see Buffle.

Loose. 1. Wanton, blue (q.v.). Hence, *loose-legged*, *loose in the hilts* (or *haft*), incontinent; *loose-girdled* (or *gowned*), approachable; *loose-woman*, a wanton; *loose-liver*, a whoremaster, etc. (1595). 2. Dissipated. *On the loose*, (1) on the town; (2) on the drink, on the spree (q.v.). *To play fast and loose*: see Fast. *To run loose*, to run unbacked. *To have a screw loose*: see Screw. *Loose in the haft* (or *hilt*), (1) wanton, (2) diarrhœic, (3) untrustworthy (1662). *Turned loose*, handicapped in a race at a very low rate. *At loose ends*, neglected.

Loose-bodied (or Loose-ended). Lewd (1607).

Loose-bodied gown. A wanton (1602).

Loose-box. A brougham or other vehicle kept for the use of a mistress; a mot-cart (q.v.).

Loose-fish. 1. A dissipated character, bad-egg (q.v.) (1827). 2. An independent member or voter.

Loose-hung. Unsteady.

Loose-kirtle. A wanton: cf. Loose-bodied gown.

Loose-legged. Incontinent (1598).

Loot. 1. Plunder. 2. A roue, vagabond: also *lootie*.

Lop. To lounge, flop.

Lope. 1. To run away. 2. To steal.

Loplolly. A servant who makes himself generally useful, and is always at the beck and call of his employer: see Loblolly.

Lord. 1. A deformed, ill-shapen person, hunch-back: cf. Lady. 2. In pl. (Winchester College). The first eleven. 3. See Lord of the Manor. *Drunk as a lord* (*prince*, or *emperor*), very drunk (1653).

Lord-Baldwin. See Queen Anne.

Lord-Harry. See Old Harry.

Lord-John-Russell. A bustle, bird-cage (q.v.).

Lord-lovel. A shovel.

Lord-Mansfield's-Teeth. The spikes round the wall of the King's Bench (*Grose*).

Lord-Mayor. A large crowbar, jemmy (q.v.).

Lord-Mayor's-Coal. A slate.

Lord-Mayor's-Fool. *Like the Lord Mayor's fool*, fond of everything that is good.

Lord-of-the-Manor. A tanner (q.v.): see Rhino.

Lose. See Combination, Hair, Mess, Shirt.

Loser. A stroke in which the player pockets his own ball, after striking either his opponent's or the red.

Lost-cause. Secessionism: a Southern euphemism after the civil war, 1860-65.

Lot. A person, male or female: mostly in sarcasm or contempt; as, a bad lot, a nice lot, etc.

Loteby (or **Ludby**). A lover (1360).

Lothario. A seducer of married women (1630).

Lothbury. *To go by way of Lothbury*, to be loth: cf. Needham Shore, Peckham, etc. (1580).

Lotion. Drink.

Loud. 1. Showy. 2. Strong-smelling. *Loud one*, a big lie (1767).

Lounce. A drink: specifically a pint of beer: i.e. allowance.

Lounge (Eton and Cambridge). 1. A treat, a chief meal. 2. A loitering place, gossiping shop (*Grose*). 3. The dock in a criminal court.

Lour (**Loure**, or **Lowre**). Money: see Rhino. Fr., *louer*, to hire: 'It was granted him in lower of his servyse' (*Merlin*, E.E.T.S., i. 59).

Louse. *To care not a louse*, to be utterly indifferent (1719). *Not worth a louse*, utterly worthless (1617).

Louse-bag. A black bag worn to the hair or wig (*Grose*).

Louse-house. The round-house or cage (*Grose*).

Louse-ladder. A stitch fallen in a stocking, a Jacob's ladder (q.v.) (*Grose*).

Louseland. Scotland (1696): cf. Itchland.

Louse-trap. A comb: Ital., *galletto* (1696).

Louse-walk. A back-hair parting (*Grose*).

Lousy. 1. Paint which, from keeping, has become full of skin. 2. Filthy, contemptible (1690).

Lout. 1. A clumsy stupid fellow, fool: see Buffle. 2. (Rugby School). Any one of the poorer classes: not necessarily an awkward, lubberly individual.

Love. No score: *Love-all*, no points on either side: Fr., *cherche*; also *baiser le cul de la vieille*, to make no score (1780). *Cupboard love*, interested love (1688).

Loveage. Taplashes, alls (q.v.), ullage (q.v.).

Love-child (or **Love-brat**). A bastard.

Love-ladder. A lace petticoat.

Lovelock (or **Lock**). A falling curl by the ear: fashionable more or less from the time of Elizabeth to Charles I.; worn on the left side, and hanging by the shoulder, sometimes even to the girdle: also heart-breakers (q.v.) (1592).

Lovely. Attractive, alluring (1653).

Love-pot. A drunkard: see Lushington.

Lovey (or **Lovey-dovey**). A term of endearment (1763).

Low. *To lie low*, to keep quiet, bide one's time. *Low in the lay*, in straits, hard up (q.v.).

Low-down. Vulgar.

Lowdowner. A general byword.

Lower. To drink: see Lush.

Lower Regions. Hell: Fr., *pacquelin du raboin*.

Lowing-cheat (or **chete**). A cow (1567).

Lowing - lay (or **rig**). Stealing oxen or cows (*Grose*).

Low-lived. Mean, shabby, vulgar (1766).

Low-man (Cambridge University). A Junior Optimé as compared to a Senior Optimé or a Wrangler.

Low-men. False dice; so loaded as to show low numbers: also *low-runners*: see Fulhams (1594).

Low-pad. A foot-pad (1696).

Lowre. See Lour.

Low-water (or **tide**). To be in *low-water* (or *at low-tide*), to be in difficulties, penniless (1696).

L. S. D. Money: see Rhino.

Lubber (or **Lubbard**). A hulking lout, lumpish oaf: specifically (nautical) a bad seaman (1362). As adj., clumsy, clownish: also *lubberly* (1580).

Lubberland. The Paradise of indolence (1767).

Lubber's - hole. An opening in the maintop, preferred before the shrouds by raw hands and timid climbers (1794).

Lubricate. To drink: see Lush.

Luck. *Down on one's luck*, unlucky, in trouble, hard up (1846). *Greasy luck*, a full cargo of oil. *Fishermen's luck*, wet, cold, hungry, and no fish.

Lucky. Plunder (1852). As adj., handy (1703). *To cut* (or *make*) *one's lucky*, to decamp, amputate, skedaddle.

Lucky-bone. The small bone of a sheep's head, supposed to bring good luck to a beggar during the day.

Ludby. See Loteby.

Ludlam's Dog. A culmination of laziness; sailors say: as lazy as Joe the marine, who laid down his musket to sneeze.

Lud's-bulwark. Ludgate prison (1696): see Cage.

Luff. 1. Speech. 2. A lieutenant.

Lug. 1. The ear: Fr., *isgourde* (1592). 2. Affected manners, airs: e.g. *to put on lugs*, to be conceited. As verb, (1) to drag; also to take by the ears (1189); (2) to drink steadily. *In lug*, in pawn, in pledge, up the spout (q.v.). *To lug in*, to include, insert unnecessarily or unexpectedly (1762). *To lug out*, to draw (as a sword) (1688). *To blow in one's lug*, to cajole, flatter: hence, *blaw-in-my-lug*, a flatterer, wheedler. *If worth his lugs* (*he would do such a thing*), used in approbation, or the reverse: from the mediæval punishment of lopping the ears (1362) *To have a flea in one's lug*: see Ear. *To lay one's lugs*, to wager.

Lug - chovey. A pawnbroker's shop.

Lugger. A sailor (*Matsell*).

Lug-loaf. A blockhead: see Buffle (1606).

Luke. Nothing (*Haggart*).

Lull. Ale (1636).

Lullaby-cheat. A baby (1671).

Lully. Linen hung out to dry: hence *lully-prigger*, a filcher of wet or drying linen: Fr., *défleurir la picouse*, *lully-prigging* (1754).

Lumb. Too much (*New Cant Dict.*).

Lumber. 1. A room: from the Lombard Room in which the mediæval pawnbrokers and bankers stored their pledges. 2. A prison, quod (q.v.). As verb, (1) to pawn, (2) to imprison. *Live lumber*, soldiers or passengers on board a ship are so called by the sailors (*Grose*).

Lumberer. 1. A swindling tipster. 2. A pawnbroker, uncle (q.v.).

Lumberer - crib. A pawnbroker's shop.

Lumber-house. A house for storing stolen property.

Lumber-state. Maine.

Lummoking. Heavy, awkward.

Lummy. First-rate (1843).

Lump. 1. Anything exceptional: e.g. a lump of a man; I like that a lump; that's a lump. 2. The workhouse, pan (q.v.): also *Lump hotel*. 3. A party, association. As verb, (1) to beat, tan (1785); (2) to dislike: If he does not like it he may lump it, if he isn't satisfied he may do the other thing: also to take without choice (i.e. to swallow whole) (1833); (3) to take off at a draught; (4) to stake heavily, to plunge (q.v.). *To knock lumps out of*, to command a great deal of applause. *To lump the lighter*, to be transported (*Grose*).

Lumper. (1) A riverside labourer; (2) a riverside thief; and (3) a contractor in a small way for labour and materials for unloading and loading ships (1781); (4) a vendor of linens, cottons, or silks, which might be really the commodities represented; but which, by some management or other, were made to appear new when they were old, or solid when they were flimsy (*Mayhew*); (5) a militiaman; (6) in pl., potatoes; murphies (q.v.); (7) one who lumps together several species: as opposed to a splitter (q.v.).

Lump Hotel. See Lump.

Lumping. Heavy, bulky, awkward (1678).

Lumpish. Melancholy, dull, dispirited, heavy (1592).

Lump of Coke. A bloke (q.v.), a man.

Lump of Lead. The head, crumpet (q.v.).

Lumpshious. Delicious: cf. Scrumptious.

Lumpy. 1. Drunk: see Screwed. 2. Pregnant. 3. Costly. 4. Rough, uneven: as applied to the ground.

Lumtum. A fashionable thief (q.v.).

Lun. (1) A harlequin (*Grose*). (2) a clown (*Matsell*).

Lunan. A girl.

Luncheon Reservoir. The stomach, victualling office.

Lung-box. The mouth: see Potato-trap.

Lungis. An idle, lazy fellow (1562).

Lungs. A large and strong-voiced man; also a chymical servant, a sort of underworkman in the art.

Lunkhead. An ill-bred, ill-looking horse; a screw (q.v.).

Lunk-headed. Senseless.

Luny. See Loony.

Lurch. A cheat (1597). As verb, to steal, cheat, trick (1563). *To leave in the lurch*, pawned for the reckoning or left at stake to smart for any plot (*B. E.*). Fr., *laisser quelqu'un béar*. *To give a lurch*, to tell a lie, deceive.

Lurcher. 1. A rogue (1603). 2. A bum-bailiff: also *lurcher of the law* (1785).

Lurden. A rogue: hence *lurdenry*, roguery (1513).

Lurk. Many kinds of thieving as well as begging are termed lurking—the dead lurk for instance, is the expressive slang phrase for the art of entering dwelling-houses during divine service. The term lurk, however, is mostly applied to the several modes of plundering by representations of sham distress (*Mayhew*). As verb, to beg with false letters.

Lurker. 1. A begging impostor, silver beggar (q.v.): also *lurksman*. 2. A Jack-of-all-trades (q.v.).

Lurries. Belongings, money, valuables: generic (1696): see Rhino.

Lurry. 1. Gabble (1649). 2. See Lurries.

Lush. 1. Drink: from Lushington, a once well-known London brewer: see Drinks. 2. A drinking bout. 3. (Eton College), a dainty. As verb, (1) to drink, and (2) to stand treat. English synonyms: to barley-bree, to beer, to bend, to blink, to boose, to bub, to budge, to cover, to crack (or crush) a bottle (a quart, or cup), to crook, to crook (lift, or tip) the elbow (or little finger), to damp, to damp one's mug, to dip, to dip one's beak (or nose), to disguise oneself, to do a dram (or wet), to drown the shamrock, to flicker, to flush, to fuddle, to gargle, to give a bottle a black eye, to guttle, to guzzle, to go and see a man (or—of women—one's pa), to grog, *to have, get*, or *take* an ante-lunch, a little anti-abstinence, an appetiser, a ball, a bead, a bit of tape, a bosom friend, a bucket, a bumper, a big reposer, a chit-chat, a cheerer, a cinder, a cobbler, a corker, a cooler, some corn juice, a damp, something damp, a damper, a dannie, a drain, a dram, a doch-an-dorroch, a digester, an eye-opener, an entr'acte, a fancy smile, a flash, a flip, a forenoon, a go, a hair of the dog that bit one, a heeltap, an invigorator, a Johnny, a jorum, a leaf of the old author, a morning rouser, a modicum, a nip, or nipperkin, a night-cap, a nut, one's medicine, a pistol shot, a pony, a pill, a quantum, a quencher, a refresher, a revelation, a rouser, a reposer, a smile, a swig, a sleeve-button, a something, a slight sensation, a shant, a shout, a sparkler, a settler, a shift, a stimulant, a sneaker, a snifter, a soother, a thimbleful, a tift, a taste, a toothful, a Timothy, a warmer, a willy-wacht, to huff, to irrigate, to knock about the bub, to lap, to lap the gutter, to liquor, to liquor up, to load in, to look thro' a glass, to lower, to lug, to make fun, to malt, to moisten (or soak) the chaffer (clay, or lips), to mop, to mop-up, to mug, to peg, to potate, to prime oneself, to pull, to put (or drive) another nail in one's coffin, to read the maker's name, to revive, to rince, to rock, to save a life, to scamander, to shed a tear, to shake a cloth, to sherry-fog, to shift, to shout, to slosh, to sluice (or wet) the bolt, gob, or ivories, to soak, to splice the mainbrace, to squiff, to stab, to suck the monkey, to swill, to swig, to swipe, to swizzle, to take the pin out, to take a drop in the eye, to take in some O be joyful, to tiff, to tipple, to toddy, to wet, to wet one's whistle, to wine.

Lushborough. A light coin imported into England from Luxembourg, whence the name. The importation of this false money was frequently forbidden, viz. in 1347, 1348, and 1351.

Lush-crib (or **ken**). A public house, tavern, hotel, club, etc. English synonyms : ale draper's, black-house, boozer, budging-ken, church, cold-blood house, confectionery, cross-dram, devil's-house, dive, diving-bell, drum, flash-case (drum, ken, or panny), flat-iron, flatty-ken, gargle-factory, gin-mill, grocery, groggery, grog-shop, guzzle-crib, jerry-shop, hash-shop, hedge-house, kiddly-wink, little church round the corner, lush-house (panny, or ken), lushery, mop-up, mug-house, O-be-joyful works, panny, patter-crib, piss-factory, pot-house, pub (or public) red-lattice, roosting-ken, rum-mill, shanty, shebeen, side-pocket, sluicery, suck-casa, tippling-shop, Tom-and-Jerry shop, whistling-shop, wobble-shop.

Lushing-muzzle. A blow on the mouth (*Grose*).

Lushington. A sot: also *lushing man* and *lushing cove*. English synonyms: admiral of the red, after-dinner man, ale-knight, ale-wisp, artilleryman, bang-pitcher, beer-barrel, belch-guts, bencher, bench-whistler, bezzle, bibber, blackpot, bloat, blomboll, boozer, boozington, borachio, bottle-sucker, brandy-face, brewer's horse, bubber (or bubster), budge (or budger), bung-eye, burster, common sewer, copper-nose, drainist, drainpipe, dramster, D-T-ist, elbow-crooker, emperor, ensign-bearer, fish, flag-of-distress, fluffer, fuddle-cap (or fuddler), full-blown angel, gargler, gin-crawler, (or slinger), ginnums, gravel-grinder, grog-blossom, guttle (or guttle-guts), guzzler (or guzzle-guts), high-goer, jolly-nose, lapper, love-pot, lowerer, lug-pot, moist-'un, mooner, mop, (or mopper-up), nazie-cove (or mort), nipster, O-be-joyfuller (or O-be-joyful-merchant), pegger, piss-maker, potster, pot-walloper, pub-ornament, sapper, shifter, sipster, soaker, sponge, swallower, swill-pot (or tub), swigsby, swigster, swipester, swizzle-guts, Thirstington, tipple-arse, toddy-cask, toss-pot, tote, tun, wet-quaker, wet-subject, wetster.

Lushy. Drunk: see Screwed.

Lustres. Diamonds (*Matsell*).

Lux (Blue-coat School). A good thing; a splendid thing; e.g. My knife is wooston a lux. Probably short form of luxuriant. Hertford word (*Blanch*).

Luxer (Winchester College). A handsome fellow, I presume from luxuries, it being a pleasure to look at him (*Adams*).

Luxuries. See Bar.

Lyb-beg. A bed (*Harman*).

Lyerby (or **Lig-by**). A mistress.

Lyp. To lie down (*Harman*).

Lypken. See Libken.

Lyribliring. Warbling, singing (1580).

M. *To have an M under* (or *by*) *the girdle*, to have a courteous address: by using the titles Mr., Mrs., Miss, etc. (1597).

Mab. 1. A cabinet (1823). 2. A slattern (1696). 3. A prostitute. As verb, 'Drest carelessly, like a Slattern' (*B. E.*).

Macaroni. 1. 'In the first Place I must observe that there is a Set of merry Drolls whom the Common People of all Countries admire, and seem to love so well that they could eat them, according to the old Proverb: I mean those circumforaneous Wits whom every Nation calls by the Name of that Dish of Meat which it loves best. In Holland they are termed Pickled Herrings; in France, Jean Pottages; in Italy, Maccaronies; and in Great Britain, Jack Puddings. These merry Wags, from whatsoever Food they receive their Titles that they may make their Audiences laugh, always appear in a Fool's Coat, and commit such Blunders and Mistakes in every Step they take, and every Word they utter, as those who listen to them would be ashamed of' (*Addison*, 1711). It., *maccarone*, now *maccherone*, a blockhead: cf. Ger., *Hanswurst*; Fr., *Jean-farine*; and Jack-pudding. 2. A dandy from 1760-75: from the Macaroni Club, which introduced Italian macaroni at Almack's (1764). 3. A Maryland regiment noted for its smartness, which took part in the Revolution—Stuck a feather in his cap and call it macaroni (*Yankee Doodle*). 4. A pony. As adj., (1) foppish, affected; and (2) a kind of burlesque poetry, consisting of a jumble of words of different languages with words of the vulgar tongue latinized, and Latin words modernised: also *macaronian* and *macaronical*.

Macaroni-stake. A race ridden by a gentleman-Jock (q.v.) (*Bee*).

Macaroon. An affected blockhead: see Buffle (1650).

Mace. A rogue assuming the character of a gentleman, or opulent tradesman, who under that appearance defrauds workmen, by borrowing a watch or other piece of goods, till one he bespeaks is done (*Grose*). As verb, to defraud: macing means taking an office, getting goods sent to it, and then bolting with them; or getting goods sent to your lodgings and then removing: also, *on the mace*, and *to strike the mace*; *to mace the rattler*, to travel by rail without paying the fare. *On the mace*, on credit, tick (q.v.).

Maceman (Mace-cove, Mace-gloak, or Macer). A swindler: spec. (1) a loan-office sharp, and (2) a swell mobsman.

Machine. 1. A bicycle or tricycle; a carriage (Scots'); and (in America) a fire-engine (1797). 2. A party, a party organization (American politics).

Machiner. A coach-horse.

Mackerel (printers'). Smeared, blurred, indistinct.

Mackerel-back. A very tall, lank person (*B. E.*).

Mad. Angry, vexed. *To get one's mad up*, to get angered: also as verb (1369). *Like mad*: see Like. *Mad as a hatter*, violently angry, crazy. *Mad as a March hare*, as mad as may be (1535).

Madam. 1. A pocket-handkerchief, wipe (q.v.): Fr., *fassollette*. 2. A mistress (1634). 3. A bold girl, artful woman. 4. An ironical address (1726).

Madam Van. A wanton (1696).

Madcap. A whimsical humourist, rashling: Fr., *lanturlu*: as adj., wild, freakish.

Mad-dog. Strong ale: see Drinks (1586).

Made. See Make.

Made-beer (Winchester College). College swipes bottled with rice, a few raisins, sugar, and nutmeg to make it up (*Mansfield*).

Madge. 1. A private place. 2. A woman: partly in sport and partly in contempt (*Jamieson*).

Mad-pash. A madman.

Mad-Tom. A man feigning mad, a Tom of Bedlam (q.v.).

Mad-woman. An empty coach.

Madza. Half. *Madza-caroon*, half a crown; *madza-saltee*, a halfpenny: It., *mezza*. *Medza-beargered*, half-drunk.

Mag. 1. Talk, chatter, jaw (q.v.): also a jabberer: Fr., *caquet-bon-bec* (1778). 2. A halfpenny: see Rhino: also *make* and *magpie*: In pl. (in Scotland), a gratuity expected by servants: cf. Meg, guinea (1567). 3. A half-cent. 4. The same as *Magpie*. 5. A magazine (1796). As verb, (1) to talk (1836); (2) to steal (1818); (3) to get money by cheating countrymen with balls, patent safes, etc. *Mag's diversion*: see Meg.

Maga. *Blackwood's Magazine.*

Magdalene. A reformed prostitute (1693).

Mag-flying. Pitch and toss: cf. Mag, a halfpenny.

Maggie. A wanton: cf. Kitty (1603).

Maggie Rab (or Robb). 1. A bad halfpenny: see Rhino. 2. A bad wife.

Magging. Talking.

Maggot. 1. A whim, crotchet, fad (q.v.): cf. (Scots') Bee in bonnet: Fr., *rats dans la tête* (1655). 2. 'A whimsicall Fellow, full of strange Fancies and Caprichios. *Maggotty*, Freakish' (*B. E.*).

Maggot-boiler. A tallow chandler (*Grose*).

Maggoty (Maggot-headed or pated). Fanciful, eccentric, full of whimsies (1687).

Magistrand (Aberdeen University). A student in arts of the last year: cf. Bejan.

Magistrate. A herring: see Glasgow magistrate.

Magnificent. High and mighty; in pl., a state of dignified resentment.

Magnify. *It doesn't magnify*, it doesn't signify.

Magnum. A double quart: cf. Jeroboam, Rehoboam, etc. (1796).

Magpie. 1. A bishop: from his vestments of black and white. 2. See Mag. 3. A pie, pastry: Fr., *parfond.* 4. A shot striking a target, divided into four sections, in the outermost but one: it is signalled with a black and white disk: cf. Bull's eye.

Magsman. A street swindler, a confidence-trick man: from mag, to talk: Fr., *chevalier de la retourne.*

Mahogany. 1. A dining-table: also *mahogany-tree* (1840). 2. Salt beef, old horse (q.v.). 3. A drink, made of two parts gin, and one part treacle, well beaten together (*Boswell*). *To have one's feet under another man's mahogany*, to live on some one else. *To amputate one's mahogany*, to run away, cut one's stick (q.v.).

Mahogany-flat. A bug: cf. Heavy cavalry: see Norfolk Howard.

Mahometan-gruel. Coffee (*Grose*).

Maiden. 1. A decapitating machine. Which fatal instrument, at least the pattern thereof, the cruel Regent [Earl Morton] had brought from abroad to behead the Laird of Pennecuik of that ilk, who notwithstanding died in his bed, and the unfortunate Earl was the first himself that handselled that merciless maiden (*Pennecuik*). 2. In cricket, an over with no runs; in racing, a horse which has never run: also as adj., as, a maiden-speech, a maiden-attempt, etc. (1696).

Maidenhead. Newness; freshness; uncontaminated state: this is now become a low word (*Johnson*).

Maiden-town. Edinburgh, Auld Reekie: from a tradition that the maiden daughters of a Pictish King sought protection there during a time of civil war.

Maid Marian. A wanton: the character in the old morris-dance was taken by a loose woman (1598).

Maids-adorning. The morning.

Maidstone-jailer. A tailor: see Prick-louse.

Mail. In pl., Mexican railway shares. *To get up the mail*, to find money to defend a prisoner.

Main. The averages of the number to be thrown at dice; at (cock-fighting) the advantage on a series of battles (*Bee*). *To turn on the main*, to weep, nap a bib.

Main-brace. *To splice the main-brace*, to serve an allowance of grog; hence to drink (1834).

Main-chance. See Chance.

Main-sheet. Drink: specifically brandy: see Drinks.

Main-toby. The highway, main road: see Toby.

Majority. *To go over to* (or *join*) *the majority* (or *great majority*), to die: see Hop the twig. [The expression ἐς πλεόνων ἰκέσϑαι is found in Crinagoras (*Anthol. Palat.* 11, 42), and *penetrare ad plures* in Plautus (*Trin.*, ii. 2, 14). A correspondent of the *Illustrated London News* (Echoes, Sept. 9, 1883) writes: 'The phrase, joining the majority, is a free translation of the sepulchral formula, *Abierunt ad multos*, used by the Roman legionaries in Britain; but in all probability the English use of the expression was popularised by Young.]

Make. See Mag. As verb, (1) to steal: see Prig (1696); (2) (Winchester College), to appropriate; (3) to earn. *On the make*, intent on (1) booty, or (2) profit. *To make up one's mouth*, to get one's living. *To make away* (*with oneself*), to commit suicide (1633). *To make dainty*, to scruple. *To make nice*, to scruple or object. *To make up*, (1) to dress: as an actor for a part: see Make-up (1602); (2) to get up, invent: as a catch or take in. *To make* (or *take*) *it up*, to be reconciled after a quarrel (1598). *To make mouths*, to jeer, grin. *To make hay*, to tumble, confuse, disorder. *To make meat of*, to kill. *To make a house*, to gather a quorum (40 members). *As good* (*bad, hot, drunk*, etc.) *as they make them*, as good, bad, etc. as may be. *Make him swim for it*, cheat him out of his share. See also Back, Bacon, Bates, Beef, Blue, Bones, Books, Buttons, Children's shoes, Clean breast, Clean sweep, Clink, Crimson, Ducks-and-drakes, Face, Feather, Figure, Fish, Flash, Fool,

Fun, Fur, Good, Hair, Hand, Hare, Hash, Hay, Honest woman, Kiss, Leg, Lip, Long-arm, Lucky, Man, Meal, Meat, Mouth, Night, Pile, Play, Point, Queen Anne's fan, Raise, Running, Scarce, Show, Splash, Split, Stand, Things, Tracks, Turkey-merchant, Two come, Virginia fence, Water, Whack, Whole cloth, Woman, etc., etc.

Makepeace. A birch.

Maker. A tailor, pricklouse (q.v.).

Makeshift. A thief (q.v.) (1584).

Makesures. Petty pilferings, fluff (q.v.), cabbage (q.v.): Fr., *gratte.*

Make-up. 1. The arrangement of an actor's face and dress: see *to make up. Make up box,* a box of materials—rouge, sponges, grease-paint, and the like—used in making-up. 2. A piece of deception, barney (q.v.), gammon (q.v.), humbug (q.v.), take-in (q.v.).

Make-weight. 1. A small candle (*Grose*). 2. A short slender man (*Grose*).

Makings. 1. Material for anything (1836). 2. Profits, earnings: Fr., *jus.*

Malinger. To sham illness, shirk duty.

Malingerer. A shirker under pretence of sickness (*Grose*).

Malkin (Maukin, Mawkin). 1. Originally (*Johnson*) a kitchen-wench: hence, a dish-clout, scarecrow, wisp: and so, slattern (1579). 2. A hare; also (old) a cat.

Malkin-trash. One in dismal garb (*B. E.*).

Malmsey-nose. A red-pimpled snout, rich in carbuncles and rubies (*Grose*): cf. Grog-blossom.

Malt. To drink beer (1828). *To have the malt above the wheat* (*water,* or *meal*), to be drunk: see Screwed (1767).

Maltooling. Picking pockets in omnibuses: cf. Molltooler.

Maltout. A sailor: cf. Fr., *matelot.*

Malt-worm (bug, or horse). A tippler, Lushington (q.v.) (1551).

Mammet. A puling girl (1595).

Mammy. 1. Mother: an endearment (1560). 2. A negro nurse, maumer.

Man. 1. A husband, lover: generally, my man (1369). 2. The head or obverse of a coin used in tossing: cf. Woman (1828). 3. Any undergraduate from fifteen to thirty: as, a man of Emanuel—a young member of Emanuel. *Dead man,* a supernumerary. *Man alive!* A mode of salutation: used in remonstrance or surprise. *Man of many morns,* a procrastinator. *Man of the world,* a knowing man (*Grose*). *Man-Friday,* a factotum: from the character in *Robinson Crusoe. Man-a-hanging,* a man in difficulties. *The man in the moon,* (1) a mythical personage who finds money for electioneering, and for such electors as vote straight. (2) A dolt: see Buffle (1621). *If my aunt had been my uncle she'd have been a man,* said in derision of a ridiculous surmise:—If wishes were horses, beggars would ride, If pigs had wings, what lovely birds they'd make! (1767). *He'll be a man before his mother*: see Mother. *To go out and see a man,* to drink: an excuse for a glass. *The man in the street,* everybody. *To get behind a man,* to endorse a bill. *Old man,* an employer, chief, governor (q.v.), the father of a family, a husband. *The sick man,* Turkey. *Man about town,* 'a Lew'd Spark, or very Debaushe' (*B. E.*). *Man of Kent,* all the inhabitants of Kent, east of the river Medway, are called men of Kent, from the story of their having retained their ancient privileges, particularly those of gavel-kind, by meeting William the Conqueror at Swanscomb-bottom; each man, besides his arms, carrying a green bough in his hand; by this contrivance concealing their number under the appearance of a moving wood. The rest of the inhabitants of the county are styled Kentish-men (*Grose*). *A man or a mouse,* something or nothing (*Florio*), one on the other (1547). *Nine tailors make a man*: see Ninth.

Manablins. Broken victuals: Fr., *arlequin,* and *bijou*: also *manavilins.*

Manarvel. To pilfer small stores.

Man-box. A coffin (1820).

Manchester. The tongue, prating-cheat (1819).

Manchester-silk. Cotton.

Manchester Sovereign. A shilling: see Rhino.

Manchet. See Brewer's-basket.

Man-chovey. See Chovey.

Mander. A remand.

Mandozy. (1) A telling hit; and (2) a term of endearment among East-end Jews: both from the fighter, Mendoza.

Mang. To talk, brag, boast (1819).

Manger. See Dog.

Manhandle. To maltreat, handle roughly, thrash, tan.

Man-in-black. A parson (1691).

Man-in-blue. A policeman: see Beak.

Manners. *After you is manners*, a jocular implication of inferiority (1659).

Mannish. Amorous (1382).

Manœuvre. See Apostle.

Man-of-straw. See Straw.

Man (or **Lad**) **of wax.** A sharp, clever fellow; a model man (1595).

Man-trap. 1. A widow, house to let (q.v.) (1773). 2. A lump of excrement, a quaker (q.v.).

Manual-compliment (or **subscription**). A blow, sign-manual (q.v.) (1750).

Manufacture. Liquors prepared from materials of English growth (*Lex. Bal.*).

Map. A dirty proof.

Marble (or **Marvel**). To move off, absquatulate (q.v.).

Marbles. Furniture, movables; *Money and marbles*, cash and effects: Fr., *meubles*: hence, and substantial *quid pro quo*. English synonyms: belongings, household gods, lares and penates, movables, sticks, sprats, slows, traps.

March. See Dirty-shirt march.

Marching-regiment. An infantry regiment of the line: in disparagement.

Marchioness. A slatternly maid-of-all-work, slavey (q.v.): from the character in *The Old Curiosity Shop.*

Mare. A woman, a wife. *The grey mare is the better horse*, the wife rules the husband. *To win the mare or lose the halter*, to play double or quits. *Money makes the mare go*, money does anything you will (1605). *Shanks's mare*: see *Shanks*. *To go before the mare to market*, to do preposterous things (*Ray*).

Mare's-nest. A supposed discovery, hoax, delusion: also *to find a mare's nest and laugh at the eggs* (1647). *The mare with three legs*, the gallows, the triple tree (q.v.).

Mare's-tails. Feather-like clouds indicative of wind.

Margery-prater. A hen, cackling cheat (q.v.) (1573).

Maria. See Black Maria.

Marigold (or **Marygold**). 1. One million sterling. 2. A gold coin: from the colour (1663).

Marinated. Transported (*Grose*).

Marine (or **Marine Officer, Dead Marine**). 1. William IV. seemed in a momentary dilemma one day, when, at table with several officers, he ordered one of the waiters to 'take away that marine there,' pointing to an empty bottle. 'Your majesty!' inquired a colonel of marines, 'do you compare an empty bottle to a member of our branch of the service?' 'Yes,' replied the monarch, as if a sudden thought had struck him; 'I mean to say it has *done its duty* once, and is ready to do it again' (*Mark Lemon*). 2. A man who is ignorant and clumsy about seaman's work, greenhorn, landlubber. *Tell that to the marines*: see Horse marines.

Mark. 1. A preference, fancy (1760). 2. A person, pig (q.v.), raw (q.v.). *Old mark*, a lady. 3. The pit of the stomach: also Broughton's mark. 4. See Mark of the beast. 5. A victim. 6. A street-walker. As verb, to watch, pick out a victim: see Marking. *To toe the mark*: see Toe. *To mark up*, verb, to know all about persons. *Mark of mouth*, the tale told by the teeth: originally horse-copers': cf. You mustn't look a gift horse in the mouth.

Marker (Cambridge University). A person employed to walk up and down chapel during a part of the service, picking off the names of the students present.

Market. The betting ring. *To drive pigs to market*: see Pigs.

Market-dame. A strumpet (1705).

Marketeer. A betting man who devotes himself, by means of special information, to the study of favourites and their diseases: the principal agent in all milking (q.v.) and knocking out (q.v.) transactions.

Market-fever. See Pencil-fever.

Market-horse. A horse kept on the lists for the sake of the betting.

Market-place. The front teeth.

Marking. 1. A watcher, stall (q.v.) (*Matsell*). 2. Observing; taking notice.

Marley-slopper. A splay-footed person. Marley is a corruption of marble . . . . In playing it is common for a boy to put his heels together, and turn out his toes . . . . to stop an eccentric marble.

Marmalade. *True marmalade*, a variant of real jam (q.v.).

Marmozet. An endearment: also, in jocular contempt, as monkey (q.v.) (1607).

Marm-puss. A wife.

Maroon. To abandon on a desert isle, with a little powder and shot and a flask of water; hence *maroon*, a man marooned.

Marplot. An officious bungler, spoil sport (q.v.): from a character in *The Busybody*.

Marquis of Granby. A bald-head, bladder of lard.

Marquis of Marrowbones. See Marrowbone.

Marriage-music. The crying of children (1696).

Married. Chained or handcuffed together (*Grose*). *Married on the carpet and the banns up the chimney*, living as man and wife; tally (q.v.).

Marrow. A partner, an equal: specifically (Old Scots') a lover or spouse: amongst colliers, mate (q.v.) (1513).

Marrowbone. In pl., the knees: Ital., *devoti* (worshippers) (1553). *Marquess of marrowbones*, a lackey (1502).

Marrowbones and Cleavers. Butcher's music to new-married couples: formerly there was a regular peal in every parish (*Grose*).

Marrowbone- (or Marylebone) stage (or coach). *To ride in* (or *go by*) *the marrowbone-stage*, to go on foot, by Shanks's mare.

Marrowskying. At the London University they had a way of disguising English (described by Albert Smith, in *Mr. Ledbury*, 1848, as the Gower Street dialect), which consisted in transposing the initials of words: as poke a smipe, smoke a pipe; flutter-by, butterfly; stint of pout, pint of stout, etc.: this is often termed Marrowskying: also Medical (or Hospital) Greek.

Marshall. A five pound Bank of England note: cf. Abraham Newlan.

Martext. A clergyman: specifically a blundering or ignorant preacher (1600).

Martin. 1. An honest man (1612). 2. A boot. 3. See St. Martin.

Martin-drunk. 'When a man is drunk, and drinkes himselfe sober ere he stirre' (*Nashe*): see Screwed.

Martinet. A military term for a strict disciplinarian: from the name of a French general, famous for restoring military discipline to the French army. He first disciplined the French infantry, and regulated their method of encampment: he was killed at the siege of Doesbourg in the year 1672 (*Lex. Bal.*).

Martingale. Doubling a stake at every loss: from the fact that, as in all fair games, a player must win once, there is a safe hold of fortune: the difficulty is to command a big enough bank, or, having the bank, to find some one to follow in a fair game (1823).

Martin's-hammer. *Martin's-hammer knocking at the wicket*, said of twins.

Marvel. To walk, be off: e.g. He marvelled for home: also Marble (q.v.).

Mary! No score, or love, in jeffing (q.v.) with quads. *To tie with St. Mary's knot*, to hamstring (1784).

Mary-Ann. 1. The *dea ex machinâ* evolved from trades-unionism at Sheffield, to the utter destruction of recalcitrant grinders: cf. Molly Maguires. 2. A dress stand.

Marygold. See Marigold.

Maryland-end. The hock of a ham; cf. Virginia-end (*Bartlett*).

Marylebone Stage. See Marrowbone Stage.

Mary-Walkers. Trousers: see Kicks. After Dr. Mary Walker, who adopted Turkish trousers.

Mascot. A luck piece, talisman, somebody (or something), which ensures good fortune to the owner: *la mascotte*: if the luck-piece be alive, the master-quality disappears with the loss of his (or her) virginity.

Mash. A sweetheart: also Masher. As verb, to court, ogle, lay oneself out for the practical approval of the other sex: hence, *on the mash*; *mashed*, amorous, spoony; *mashed on*, in love: see Masher.

Masher. (1) A species of Don Juan in a small way of business: specifically among choristers and actresses; hence (2) a dandy, and as adj., smart, dapper. [The particle mashed was in use, in America, before the substantive. A person who was very spoony on another was said to be mashed. Then came the verb to mash, and latterly the noun masher; i.e. he who produces the effect, or at least who imagines himself a lady-killer. Men of this calibre are often fops or dandies? Hence, the word masher as now understood here.]

Masherdom. The world of mashers (q.v.).

Mash-tub. A brewer: hence (Fleet St.) *The Morning Mash-tub*, *The Morning Advertiser*.

Maskin. Coal.

Mason. One who swindled farmers, etc. by giving worthless notes for horses, etc. bought by them. The dealers, called masons . . . . giving notes for money, and never to pay it (*Poulter*, 1754): also as verb.

Masonry. Secret signs and passwords.

Mason's-mawn'd. 'A Sham sore above the Elbow, to counterfeit a broken Arm, by a Fall from a Scaffold, expos'd by subtil Beggars, to move Compassion, and get Money' (*B. E.*).

Massacre. See Innocents.

Masse-stapler. A rogue disguised as a woman.

Master-can (or **more**). A chamber-pot (*Fergusson*) (1776).

Master-of-the-black-art. A beggar: see Cadger.

Master-of-the-Mint. A gardener: cf. Burn-crust, Corks, etc.

Master-of-the-Rolls. A baker (1641). English synonyms: burn-crust, doughy, dough-puncher, crumbs, fourteen-to-the-dozen.

Master-of-the-Wardrobe. One who pawns his clothes to buy liquor (*Grose*).

Masterpiece. A culmination: the best that can be (1715).

Match. 1. In pl., Bryant and May, Limited, Stock. 2. A stripling: see Lamp-post.

Mate. A companion, partner, pal (q.v.): also *matey* (1580).

Mater. A mother, the Old woman (q.v.): Fr., *maternelle* (1859).

Matin-bell. A thieves' rendezvous, evening chimes (q.v.).

Matriarch. An old dowager.

Matter. *As near as no matter*, very nearly, as near a may be.

Maukes (**Maux**, or **Mawkes**). See Mawkes.

Maukin. See Malkin.

Mauled. 1. Swingingly drunk: see Screwed. 2. Soundly beaten.

Mauley (**Morley**, or **Mawley**). 1. A fist, a hand. *To tip a mauley*, to give a hand; *fam the mawley*, shake hands (1800). 2. A signature, handwriting, fist (q.v.).

Maund (or **Maunder**). 1. To beg. *To maund upon the pad* (or *on the fly*), to beg in the highway or the street; *maunding*, begging: from *maund*, a basket: cf. Beg from bag (1531). 2. To ask (1567).

Maunder. A beggar, cadge-gloak (q.v.): also *maunderer* and *maunding-cove* (1611).

Maundring-broth. A scolding (*B. E.*).

Maverick. An unbranded yearling: from one Maverick.

Maw. The mouth (1502). *Hold your maw!* stop talking.

Mawkes. 1. A vulgar slattern (*Grose*). 2. A wanton.

Mawley. See Mauley.

Maw-wallop. A filthy composition, sufficient to provoke vomiting (*Grose*).

Mawworm. A hypocrite: from Bickerstaff's play, *The Hypocrite*: also as adj. (1823).

Mawpus. See Mopus.

Mawther. 1. A girl (*Jonson*). 2. An old drudge (*Dickens*).

Max. Gin: see Drinks: from *maxime*, and so properly applied only to the best quality spirit (1823). As verb, at West Point (United States) to gain the maximum of marks; hence, to do well.

May (Cambridge University). The Easter Term examination.

May-gathering. Sheep-stealing, fleecy-claming (q.v.), bleat-marching (q.v.).

Mazarine. 1. A Common Councilman of the City of London: from the robe of mazarine blue (1761). 2. A platform under the stage.

Mazzard (**Mazard**, or **Mazer**). The head, face (1602). As verb, to knock on the head.

M. B. Coat (or **Waistcoat**). A long coat worn by some clergymen: i.e. Mark of the Beast (1853).

Meacock. 1. A milksop, fool; see Buffle (1563). 2. A hen-pecked husband. As adj., cowardly (1593).

Meal. See Square-meal.

Mealer. 1. A partial abstainer: pledged to take intoxicants only at meals. 2. One who lodges at one place and boards elsewhere.

Meal-mouth. 'A sly sheepish Dun, or Sollicitor for Money' (*B. E.*).

Meal-tub (or sack). The stock of sermons: e.g. I've nothing in my meal-tub, I've no sermon ready.

Mealy- (or Meal-) mouthed (or mealy). 1. Fluent, plausible, persuasive (1587). 2. One that is faint-hearted, bashful, or afraid to speak his mind freely (*Dyche*).

Mean. 1. Disobliging, petty, stingy. *To feel mean*, to feel guilty. 2. A general epithet of disparagement: *mean night*, a bad night; *mean horse*, a sorry screw; *mean crowd*, a man of no account; *mean bit*, a worn-out, haggard woman. *Mean enough to steal acorns from a blind hog*, as mean as may be.

Mean White (American negro). A white man working with his hands, poor white trash (q.v.).

Measly. Contemptible.

Measure. The distance of duellers. *To break measure*, to be out of the adversary's reach (*B. E.*). *To measure out*, to knock down flat, to kill. *To take* (or *get*) *one's measure*, (1) to marry; (2) to appreciate, to size up (1859). *To be measured* [for a part, etc.], to get a part written to one's liking or capacity, to be exactly suited. *To have been measured for a new umbrella*, (1) to appear in new but ill-fitting clothes; whence (2) to pursue a policy of doubtful wisdom. *To be measured for a suit of mourning*, to get a pair of black eyes. *Measured for a funeral sermon*, at death's door.

Meat. *To chew one's own meat*, to do a thing oneself; hence, to *chew meat for one*, to do another's work for him.

Meat-and-drink. 1. Strong drink; also liquor thickened with yolk of eggs, etc. 2. Delight (1600).

Meat-axe. *Savage as a meat-axe*, extremely hungry.

Meat-bag (or safe). The stomach, victualling-office.

Meat-in-the-pot. A revolver. English synonyms: barker, barking iron, black-eyed Susan, blazer, bull-dog, Colt, the democratiser (American: as making all men equal), unconverted friend, pop (or pop-gun), persuader, shooting-iron, shot-gun, six-shooter, stick, towel, two-pipe scatter-gun.

Meaty. 1. Plump. 2. Enjoyable.

Mechanic. A tradesman; also a mean, inconsiderable, contemptible fellow (*B. E.*). As adj., common, vulgar, mean.

Med (Medic, Medical, or Medico). A medical man (or student) (1823).

Meddler. *Lay-overs for meddlers*: see Lare-over.

Medes and Persians (Winchester College). Jumping on a man (q.v.) when in bed.

Medical Greek. See Marrow-skying.

Medicine. Liquor: hence *to take one's medicine*, to drink.

Medium. A person engaged by a squatter, part of whose run is offered by Government at a land lottery: the medium takes lot-tickets, as if bent upon cultivation, attends the drawing, and if his ticket be drawn before his principal's land is gone, selects it, and hands it over on payment of the attendance fee.

Medlar. A dirty person.

Meech, Meeching. See Mike.

Meerschaum. The nose: see Conk.

Meetinger. A chapel goer.

Meg. 1. A guinea: see Rhino. 2. In pl., Mexican Railway First Preference Stock. 3. A wench. *Meg Dorts*, a pert girl; *Meg-harry* (Lanc.), a hoyden. *Roaring Meg*, a monster piece of ordnance; hence, an unfailing antidote (1624).

Megrim. (1) A crotchet; and (2) a headache: Fr., *migraine* (1520).

Meg's Diversions. (1) Whimsical pleasantry; and (2) Old Harry (q.v.).

Megsman. See Magsman.

Mejoge. A shilling: see Rhino (1754).

Mell. The nose: see Conk.

Mellow. Slightly drunk: see Screwed (1696).

Melon. A new cadet.

Melt. To spend, blew (q.v.) (1696). *To look as if butter would not melt in the mouth*: see Butter. *'Twill cut butter when it's melted*: see Butter.

Melting. A sound drubbing, all one way. A melter is he who punisheth, and the thing administered is a melting—a corruption of malletting (*Bee*).

Melton. Dry bread.

Member. A person: almost exclusively with qualifying terms, as hot (q.v.); rum (q.v.); warm (q.v.) and the like.

Member-mug. 1. A chamber-pot: see It (1696). 2. (Westminster School) An out-of-door boy.

Men. See Man for all senses.

Menagerie. The orchestra.

Menavelings. Odd money in the daily accounts, fluff (q.v.), overs and shorts: cf. Manablins.

Mend. *To mend fences,* to mind one's own business, attend to one's interest. *To correct* (or *mend*) *the magnificat,* to correct that which is faultless (*Ray*) (1670).

Mentor. A second in the ring.

Mephisto. A foreman.

Merchant. A term of abuse (1555). *To play the merchant,* to best (q.v.), get the bulge on (q.v.), get to windward of (q.v.) (1593).

Mercury. 1. A messenger; also applied in cant phrase to the carriers of news and pamphlets (*Johnson*). 2. Wit; hence *mercurial,* witty (1696). 3. A thief (q.v.), trickster (1599).

Mercury-women. Wholesale news-sellers who retail to the hawkers (*B. E.*).

Meridian. Refreshment taken at noon; hence *ante-meridian,* a morning dram, *post-meridian,* an appetiser before dinner (1818).

Merkin. 1. Fur (1678). 2. Hair dye (1859).

Mermaid. A strumpet.

Merry. Wanton (1610).

Merry-andrew (or **Mr Merriman**). The jack-pudding, jester, or zany of a mountebank, usually dressed in a parti-coloured coat.

Merry-begot (or **begotten**). A bastard.

Merry-cain. See Cain, Raise, and Jesse.

Merry-dancers. The Northern Lights: Fr., *chèvres dansantes* (dancing goats).

Merry-dog. A boon companion, a jolly-dog (q.v.).

Merry Dun of Dover. A ship so large that, passing through the Straits of Dover, her flying jib-boom knocked down Calais steeple; while the fly of her ensign swept a flock of sheep off Dover Cliff. She was so lofty that a boy who went to her mast-head found himself a grey old man when he reached the deck again. [This yarn is founded on a story in Scandinavian mythology.]

Merry-go-down. Strong ale, stingo (q.v.): see Drinks (1530).

Merry-go-sorry. Hysteria (1600).

Merry-go-up. Snuff (1821).

Merry Greek. A jolly companion (1602).

Merryman. See Merry-Andrew.

Merry-men-of-may. Currents formed by the ebb-tides.

Merry-pin. A happy chance, jolly time, gay mood. *In a merry pin,* jovially inclined. [The Dutch, and English in imitation of them, were wont to drink out of a cup marked with certain pins, and he accounted the man who could nick the pin; whereas, to go above or beneath it, was a forfeiture (*Fuller*).]

Merry Thought. The furcula or forked bone of a fowl's breast.

Mesopotamia. Belgravia, Cubitopolis (q.v.): cf. Asia Minor, New Jerusalem, etc. *The true Mesopotamia ring,* high-sounding and pleasing but wholly past comprehension. [In allusion to the story of the old woman who told her pastor that she found great support in that blessed word Mesopotamia.]

Mess. 1. A difficulty, fiasco, muddle. *To make a mess of it,* to fail utterly or permanently. 2. (Winchester College). The Præfects' tables in Hall were called Tub, Middle, and Junior mess respectively. The boys who dined at each were also so named. Any number of boys who habitually breakfasted together were so called, with some distinguishing prefix, such as Deputy's mess. In Chambers, tea was called mess; as was also the remains of a joint of meat. Lest the reader should make a mess of all these different meanings, I will give a sentence in which they shall all figure, Look . . . . Junior mess has sat down at Tub mess, but as they will find nothing left but a mess, they had better go down to chambers as mess is ready (*Mansfield*). *To mess about,* (1) to take liberties; (2) to play fast and loose, swindle, put off. *To lose the number of one's mess,* to die: see Hop the twig.

Messel. A partner, associate (1605).

Mess-John. A clergyman: in contempt: i.e. *Mass*-john.

Mess-mate. A companion, comrade, one eating at the same table.

Mesting. Dissolving, melting.

Met. 1. A member of the Metropolitan (or New York) Base-ball Club. 2. In pl., Metropolitan Railway Shares. *The Met*, the Metropolitan Music-hall.

Metal. 1. Money: see Rhino. 2. See Mettle.

Metallician. A bookmaker: from the use of metallic books and pencils.

Metal-rule. An oath, obscenity. [From the use of '—' in print].

Mettlesome. Bold, spirited (*Grose*).

Mew-mew! In sarcasm: tell that to the Marines (q.v.).

Mice-feet. *To make mice-feet*, to destroy wholly.

Mich, Micher, Michery, Miching. See Mike, Miker, Mikery, and Miking.

Michael. A man (1647).

Mick (Mike, or Micky). 1. An Irishman. 2. A young wild bull.

Mid (or Middy). A midshipman (1812).

Midden. A foul slattern; a heap (q.v.). *An eating midden*, a glutton, belly-god.

Middies. Midland Railway Ordinary Stock.

Middle. 1. The waist (1640). 2. (Fleet Street). A writer of social, literary, and scientific articles for the press is said to be a writer of middles, or a middleman. 3. A finger.

Middle-cut (Winchester College). There were . . . eight [portions] to a leg of mutton . . . the thick slice out of the centre of the leg was called a middle cut (*Mansfield*).

Middle-match. See Match.

Middle-mess. See Mess.

Middle-piece. The stomach, victualling-office (q.v.): also *middle-pie* and *middle-story* (1675).

Middling. Tolerably, moderately. Also (tailors'), I don't think so. I don't believe what you say.

Middy. See Mid.

Midge. A small one-horse carriage used in the Isle of Wight.

Midge-net. A lady's veil.

Midget. Anything small of its kind; e.g. a sprightly child.

Midnight. Sarsaparilla. *Midnight without*, sarsaparilla without ice. *As white as midnight*, as black as may be (1557).

Midshipman's-half-pay. Nothing a day and find yourself: cf. Monkey's allowance.

Midshipman's-nuts. Broken biscuit, eaten by way of dessert.

Midshipman's Watch and Chain. A sheep's heart and pluck.

Midshipmite. A diminutive midshipman.

Miff. A petty quarrel, tantrum (1623). As verb, (1) to offend; (2) to fall out. As adj., angered; also *miffed*.

Miff-maff. Nonsense, rot (q.v.)

Miffy. The devil, Old Scratch (q.v.).

Mifty. Apt to take offence.

Mighty (Mightily). In a great degree. Not to be used but in very low language (*Johnson*). Also *mightily* (1596). *High and mighty*, consequential, full of airs.

Mike. 1. An Irishman. 2. See Miker. 3. See Micky. As verb, (1) to lurk, skulk, hang about: also *to do a mike* (or *mouch*) (1490); (2) to play truant, Charley-wag (q.v.); (3) to hang about: for alms, a job, or a chance to pilfer: also *on the mouch*; (4) to steal (1655).

Miker (Moucher, or Moocher). A skulker, petty thief, beggar: also a truant: see Loafer (1360).

Miking (Mooching, or Mouching). (1) Prowling; (2) pilfering; (3) playing truant. Also *michery* and *mickery* (1393). As adj., (1) skulking; (2) lurking; (3) mean (1500).

Milch-cow. One who is easily tricked out of his property: a term used by gaolers for prisoners who have money, and bleed freely (*Grose*). Hence, any living source of alms or revenue (1696).

Mild. Second-rate, feeble, inefficient. *Draw it mild!* see Draw.

Mild-bloater. See Bloater.

Miler (or Myla). An ass.

Miles's Boy. See Ralph.

Milestone. A country booby (*Vaux*).

Milestone-monger. A tramp.

Milk. 1. To plunder (1536). 2. To bet against a horse, which is one's own property but is not meant to win, to keep him a favourite at short odds for a race in which he has no chance whatever (or in which he will not run). 3. To get possession by artifice: as, to milk a telegram, to get access to it before the addressee: see Milker. 4. To exhaust, drain (1642). *To give down milk*, to pay (1655). *To milk the pigeon*, to attempt impossibilities:

cf. Pigeon's Milk. *To milk the street*, to hold stock so well in hand as to make it fluctuate as you will: a Wall Street phrase. *To milk over the fence*, to steal milk from cans. *No milk in the cocoa-nut*, silly, crazed. *Bristol-milk*: see Bristol.

Milk-and-molasses. The people of this country (United States) are of two colours, black and white . . . or half-and-half sometimes at the south, where they are called milk-and-molasses (*Neal*).

Milk-and-water. A stuff under this strange designation appears in 16th century inventories, but we have no guide as to what determined its title (*Draper's Dict.*) (1555). As adj., insipid, undistinguished, harmless (1823).

Milker. 1. When a telegram sent to a specific person is surreptitiously made use of or drawn from by others, it is said to have been milked; and those who thus steal are called milkers. To guard, as far as possible, against this being done, important special and press messages from abroad, and sometimes home telegrams also, are written in cipher: see Milk. 2. A milk-giver.

Milker's-calf. A calf yet with the cow; hence, a mother's boy or girl.

Milk-fever. See Pencil-fever.

Milk-hole (Winchester College). The hole formed by the roush (q.v.) under a pot (q.v.) (*Notions*).

Milking-pail. *To work* (or *carry*) *the milking-pail*: see Milk.

Milk-livered. Timid, cowardly (1605).

Milk-shop (Milk-walk, or Milky-way). The paps: see Dairies (1640).

Milk-sop. A coward, ladified man, novice, meacock (q.v.) (1390).

Milk-woman. A wet-nurse. *Green-milk-woman*, a woman recently delivered.

Milky ones. White linen rags. *Milky-duds*, white clothes (*Matsell*).

Mill. 1. A fight, set-to (q.v.) (1785). 2. The treadmill. 3. A prison. 4. The old Insolvent Debtor's Court: hence, *to go through the mill*, to be adjudicated bankrupt. 5. A guard-room in barracks, jigger (q.v.). 6. A chisel (*Grose*). As verb, (1) to fight, pummel, kill, *to mill the nob*, to punch the head (1748); (2) to rob, break, force: *mill-lay*, burglary (1567); (3) to send to the tread-mill (1838). *To go through* (or *be on*) *the mill*, (1) to go through the Bankruptcy Court, be whitewashed (q.v.); (2) to pass through a more or less severe course of discipline, experience, or training (1829); (3) See Mill. *To bring grist to the mill*, to be a source of profit (1726). *To put through the mill*, to put to trial: as a horse before a race.

Mill-clapper. The tongue: specifically of women (1696).

Mill-doll. The Bridewell, once situate in Bridge Street, Blackfriars (1781). As verb, to beat hemp in Bridewell, do work on the treadmill: see Mill-dolly (1751).

Mill-dolly. Hard labour in Bridewell.

Mill-dose. Prison labour (*Matsell*).

Mill-lay. To force open the doors of houses in order to rob them (*Grose*).

Miller. 1. A pugilist (1823). 2. See Joe Miller. 3. A vicious horse (1825). 4. A white hat. 5. A murderer. *To give the miller*, to wrap flour in thin paper, which, when thrown, breaks and smothers the person of whom a target is made. *To drown the miller*, (1) to water overmuch: originally *to drown the miller's thumb*, i.e. the thumb mark on the glass (1767); (2) to go bankrupt (*Jamieson*) (1805).

Miller's-eye. A lump of flour in a loaf. *To put the miller's eye out*, to be sparing of flour.

Miller's-thumb. See Cobbler's thumb.

Mill-ken. A housebreaker.

Milling. 1. A beating: also fighting (1810). 2. Stealing. *Milling in the darkman's*, murder by night.

Milling-cove. A pugilist (*Grose*).

Mill-round. Routine: see Go through the mill.

Millstone. *To see* (or *look*) *through a millstone* (or *brick-wall*), to be well-informed, judge with precision, be quick of perception (1582). *To weep millstones*, said of a person not likely to cry (1597). *To run one's head against a millstone* (*milestone*, or *brick wall*), to resist mulishly, attempt impossibilities. *To run a milestone*, to strike one die dead and let the other run as it will.

Mill-tog (tag, or twig). A shirt: see Camesa (1821).

Mill-wash. Vest canvas.

Milton. An oyster (1841).

Milvader. A blow. *Milvadering*, boxing.

Mince. To dissect.

Mince-pies. The eyes: also *mutton-pies* (q.v.).

Minckins. See Minx.

Mind. See P's and Q's. *Mind your eye*, be careful: also (nautical) *mind your helm*.

Minden Boys. The Twentieth Foot, now the Lancashire Fusiliers: from their bravery at Minden, 1759.

Minder. A child put out to nurse.

Mine-arse. See Bandbox.

Mine Uncle. See Uncle.

Mingle-mangle. A hotch-potch (1550).

Minikin (or Minnikon). An endearment, 'a daintie lasse, a minnikin, smirking wench' (*Florio*); A little man or woman, also the smallest sort of pin (*Grose*). Also as adj., diminutive, dainty, delicate.

Minor (Eton College). 1. A younger brother. 2. A water-closet (*Grose*). *Minor clergy*, young chimney sweeps.

Mint. Money: also *mint-sauce* or *mint-drops*: see Rhino (1420). As adv., plenty of money (*Lex. Bal.*): also *a mint of money*, a big sum (*Grose*).

Minx. 1. A woman: in contempt; and, 2. a wanton: also *minckins* (1503).

Mischief. 1. A vexatious person: and, 2. ruin. *To go to the mischief*, go to the bad; *what*, *who*, or *where the mischief*, what, who, or where the hell, or the devil; *to play the mischief*, to play havoc, disorder; *with a mischief*, with a vengeance (1614). *A man loaded with mischief*, a man with his wife on his back.

Misery. Gin: see Drinks.

Misfit. An awkward man.

Mish. A shirt or chemise: cf. Camesa: an abbreviation of commission (q.v.) (1665).

Mishmash. Chaos, confused lump, formless mass (*Florio*).

Mish-topper. A coat, petticoat.

Miss. 1. A wanton (1662). 2. A very young girl (1695). 3. A girl from about 10 to 15 years of age: before and after, a child and a young lady respectively. *A miss is as good as a mile*, a narrow escape is as good as an easy one. *To miss the cushion*, to act foolishly, be wide of the purpose (1598). *To miss one's tip*: see Tip. *To miss the figure*: see Combination and Slump.

Miss Nancy. An affectedly prim person: male or female: hence, *Miss Nancyism*, affected nicety, effeminacy.

Missus (The). 1. A wife; and, 2. among servants, a mistress.

Mist. *Scotch mist*, rain.

Mistake. *And no mistake*, unquestionably, without fail.

Mistress. The mark in the game of bowls, the Jack (q.v.) (1580).

Mistress Roper. A marine: because handling the ropes awkwardly.

Mite (or Mitey). A cheesemonger: cf. Burn-crust, Corks, etc. (1765).

Mitre. A hat: see Tufts and Golgotha.

Mitten. 1. A hand: see Bunch of fives (*Grose*). 2. A boxing glove, muffler (q.v.): also *mitts*. As verb, to jilt: also *to give the mitten*: in Devonshire, to give one turnips. *To handle without mittens*, to handle roughly: a low phrase (*Johnson*). *Easy as mittens*, free.

Mitten-mill. A glove fight.

Mivvy. 1. A woman: in contempt; hence, 2. a lodging-house landlady, cat (q.v.). 3. A marble.

Mix. A muddle, mess. As verb, (1) to confuse; and (2) to involve or implicate: also *to mix up*: spec. to agree secretly how to make up a tale or colour a transaction in order to cheat or deceive another party, as in case of a justice-hearing, of a law-suit, or a cross in a boxing-match for money.

Mixed. 1. Confused, muddled, bewildered. 2. Foul, bad, inferior (1280). 3. Slightly drunk: see Screwed.

Mix-metal. A silversmith (*Grose*).

Mixum. An apothecary (1635).

Mizmaze. A cant word formed from maze by reduplication: a maze, a labyrinth (*Johnson*).

Mizzard. The mouth: cf. Mazzard.

Mizzle. To decamp, amputate (q.v.), skedaddle (q.v.) (1781).

Mizzler. A fugitive. *Rum mizzler*, a good hand at dodging or getting off.

Moab. 1. A hat: specifically, the turban-shaped hat fashionable among ladies 1858-59: from the Scripture phrase, Moab is my washpot (Ps. lx. 8). 2. (Winchester College). On the west side of school court, a spacious room, nicknamed Moab, with numerous marble basins, and an unlimited supply of fresh water (*Mansfield*).

Moabite. A bailiff, Philistine (q.v.) (*Grose*).

Mob. 1. The populace, the crowd: a contraction of *mobile vulgus*: also *mobility* and *mobocracy* (1686). 2. A number of thieves working together. 3. A number of horses, or cattle, part of a flock of sheep: a flock is the total number of fleeces tended by one shepherd; any portion of it being a mob. 4. A wanton. As verb, to crowd, hustle, annoy: hence *mobbing* (1741). See Swell-mob.

Mobility (or **Mobocracy**). See Mob.

Mobsman. A pickpocket: i.e. a member of the swell-mob (q.v.) (1851).

Mockered. Full of holes: e.g. a ragged handkerchief, a blotched or pitted face.

Mocteroof. To doctor or fake (q.v.) damaged produce: e.g. pines are washed with a solution of gum; chestnuts shaken in a bag with bees-wax.

Model (The). Pentonville Prison.

Modern Babylon. London. *Modern Athens*, Edinburgh.

Modest. A vulgarism expressive of moderation; the reverse of large (q.v.). Hence, *modest quencher*, a small drink.

Mods (Oxford University). The first public examination for degrees: an abbreviation of Moderations.

Moey. 1. The mouth: see Potato-trap. 2. A petition.

Moffling-chete. See Muffling-cheat.

Mofussil. Any part of India except the three capitals, Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras: specifically, rural, provincial (1772).

Moggy. 1. A badly-dressed woman, guy (q.v.). 2. A calf.

Mogue. To gammon, throw dust in one's eyes.

Mohair. 1. An upholsterer: cf. Burn-crust. 2. A man in the civil line, a townsman or tradesman, a military term, from the mohair buttons worn by persons of those descriptions, or any others not in the army; the buttons of military men being always of metal; this is generally used as a term of contempt (*Grose*).

Mohawk (or **Mohock**). A ruffian who infested the streets of London at the beginning of the eighteenth century: at the Restoration, the street-bullies were called Muns and Tityre-Tus; then Hectors and Scourers; then, Nickers and Hawcubites; and lastly, Mohocks or Mohawks: also as verb (1711).

Mohican. A tremendously heavy man, who rides five or six miles [in an omnibus] for sixpence (*Tait's Mag.*).

Moiety. 1. Fifty. 2. A wife.

Moisten. To drink, lush (q.v.): also *to moisten one's chaffer* (or *clay*).

Moke. 1. An ass. English synonyms: baldwin, cuddy Don Key Dick, Edward, Issachar, Jack, Jenny, Jerusalem, Jerusalem pony, King of Spain's trumpeter, long-ears, myla, Neddy. 2. A dolt: see Buffle. 3. A variety artist who plays on several instruments. 4. A negro, snow-ball (q.v.).

Moko. A pheasant shot by mistake before the end of the close time: the tail feathers are pulled out: cf. Lion.

Moll. 1. A girl. 2. A female companion. 3. A prostitute. *Molled up*, arm-in-arm with, or accompanied by a woman.

Moll-blood. The gallows: see Ladder (1818).

Moll-buzzer. A thief devoting himself to picking women's pockets.

Mollie. Whenever the whaling fleet is stopped for a number of days in the ice, it is the practice for the captains to assemble on board one or other of the ships to discuss the prospects of the season's catch. These interviews are called mollies and are announced by a bucket hoisted as a signal at the fore-royal mast-head ... Generally speaking, a mollie means making a night of it (*Rescue of Greeley*).

Mollisher. A thief's mistress, moll (q.v.).

Moll-sack. A lady's hand-bag, market basket.

Moll-Thompson's-mark (M.T.) Empty packages are said to be so marked: as adj., empty (*Grose*).

Moll-tooler. A female pickpocket: see Thief.

Molly (**Miss Molly**, or **Molly-coddle**). 1. An effeminate person, milk-sop (q.v.). 2. A prostitute. 3. A country wench.

Molly-coddle. To pamper: also *moddley-coddley*.

Molly-coddlish. Effeminate: also *mollyish* (1801).

Mollygrubs. See *Mulligrubs.*

Molly Maguires. 1. An Irish secret society (*c.* 1843) formed to intimidate bailiffs and process-servers. These Molly Maguires were generally stout active young men, dressed up in women's clothes, with faces blackened or otherwise disguised; sometimes they wore crape over their countenances sometimes they smeared themselves in the most fantastic manner with burnt cork about their eyes, mouth, and cheeks. In this state they used suddenly to surprise the unfortunate grippers, keepers, or process-servers, and either duck them in bog holes, or beat them in the most unmerciful manner, so that the Molly Maguires became the terror of all our officials (*Trench*). 2. A secret society formed in 1877 in the mining districts of Pennsylvania. The members sought to effect their purpose by intimidation, carried in some cases to murder. Several were brought to justice and executed.

Molly-puff. A gamblers' decoy (1629).

Molocker. A renovated hat: also as adj. and verb.

Mome. A blockhead: see Buffle (1550).

Monarch. 1. A name: also *moneker, moniker, monarcher,* and *monick.* 2. (Eton College). The ten-oared boat. 3. Formerly a guinea; now a sovereign: see Rhino. *Big monarcher,* a person of note, big-bug (q.v.).

Monas. Isle of Man Railway Shares.

Monday. See St. Monday.

Monday. An intensitive: Awful Bleeding, Bloody, etc.

Mondayish (or Mondayfied). Sunday is not a day of rest to him [the clergyman]; it is a day of grateful work, in which many week duties are laid aside; but it is a day of work, the reaction from which has created the clerical slang word Mondayish (*Fraser's Mag.*). English synonyms: in the idles, not-up-to-work, run down, seedy, off colour, off it, off the spot, out of it, shilly-shally, soft in the back, stale.

Mondongo. See Mundungus.

Money. 1. Money's worth, a way or a line of investing money. *Eggs for money,* an excuse, trick (1604). *Hard money,* coin. *Soft money,* notes. *Money makes the mare to go*: see Mare. *Pot of money,* a large amount.

Money-bags. A miser, usurer, man of means.

Money-dropper. A swindler who lets money drop before some flat, and offering to share it with him, passes off counterfeit coin in return for good change (1748).

Money-grubber. A miser.

Mongrel. A hanger on amongst cheats, a spunger; also a child, whose father and mother are of different countries (*Grose*).

Moniker. See Monarch.

Monk. 1. A term of contempt. 2. (printers'), An over-inked spot in a printed sheet, a dark patch, a blackened or wasted impression: see Friar.

Monkery. 1. The country, Daisyville (q.v.) (1819). 2. Tramps, vagrants: collective. *On the monkery,* on tramp.

Monkey. 1. A term of real or affected displeasure: also, an endearment (1602). 2. Five hundred pounds sterling; also (in America) $500: see Rhino (1856). 3. A hod. 4. A padlock (1819). 5. A rocket-driving instrument. 6. A vessel in which a mess receives its full allowance of grog. 7. A small bustle, which in the days of very short waists was worn just below the shoulder blades. As verb, to trifle, play, fool about. *Monkey on horseback,* a bad horseman. *Monkey on a wheel,* a cyclist: Fr., *imbécile à deux roues. Monkey with a long tail,* a mortgage; a *monkey up the chimney,* a mortgage on one's house. *To get one's monkey up,* (1) to get angry: hence, (2) his *monkey is up* (or *he has a monkey on his back*), he is angry: Fr., *reniquer. To suck the monkey,* (1) to drink rum out of cocoanuts, emptied of milk and filled with spirits; (2) to liquor from a cask through a gimlet-hole and a straw (called *tapping the admiral,* which see); and (3) to drink from the bottle (1811). *Monkey with a tin tool,* a phrase expressive of impudence or self-content: e.g. Oh, they're as cocky as monkeys with tin tools.

Monkey-board. The conductor's place on an old-style omnibus (1860).

Monkey-boat. A long, narrow canal boat: also a small boat used in the docks.

Monkey-cage. The grated room in which a convict sees his friends: Fr., *parloir des singes.*

Monkey-coat (or **jacket**). A short, close-fitting jacket, a coat with no more tail than a monkey: see Capella.

Monkey-pump. The straw used in sucking the monkey (q.v.).

Monkey's-allowance. More kicks than halfpence (*Grose*).

Monkeyshines (**Monkeytricks**, or **Monkeyings**). 1. Antics. 2. Tricks.

Monkey's-money. 1. Goods. 2. Labour. 3. Words: Fr., *monnaie des singes* (1653).

Monkey's-tail. 'Youngster, hand me that monkey's tail!' I saw nothing like a monkey's tail, but I was so frightened that I snatched up the first thing that I saw, which was a very short bar of iron, and it so happened that it was the very article wanted (*Marryatt*).

Monmouth-street Finery. Tawdriness, pretence. [Monmouth Street (now Dudley Street) was long a mart for second-hand clothes.]

Monniker (or **Monick**). See Moneker.

Monocular-eyeglass. The breech.

Mons (Winchester College). A crowd: also as verb: e.g. Square round there, don't mons (*Notions*).

Monstrous. A general intensitive.

Montem (Eton College). An Eton custom up to 1847, which consisted in the scholars going in procession on the Whit-Tuesday of every third year to a mound (Lat., *ad montem*), near the Bath road, and exacting a gratuity from persons present or passing by. The collection was given to the captain or senior scholar and helped to defray his expenses at the University.

Month. *A bad attack of the end of the month*, impecuniosity.

Month-of-Sundays. An indefinitely long time: cf. Greek Kalends.

Month's mind. Longing: from the cravings of pregnant women (1565).

Mooch. See Mike.

Moocher. See Miker.

Mooching. See Miking.

Mooer. A cow, wet-'un: also mooler and moo-cow.

Moon. 1. A month: specifically (thieves') a term of imprisonment, e.g. one (two, or three) moons; *long moon*, a calendar month (or callingder). (1823). 2. A large, round biscuit. 3. A wig: also *half-moon* (1608). As verb, to wander, lounge as in a dream (1856). *To make believe the moon is made of green cheese*, to hoax (1562). *A blue moon*, an indefinite time, never, Greek Kalends (q.v.), Tib's eye (q.v.) (1528). *Minions of the moon*: see Moonman. *Man in the moon*: see Man. *To shoot* (or *bolt*) *the moon*, to clear a house by night to evade distraint or payment of rent, do a moonlight flitting; to move in the blind, to go between the moon and the milkman; hence *moonshooters*. *To cry for the moon*, to crave for the impossible: Fr., *vouloir prendre la lune avec les dents*. *To cast beyond the moon*, to make extravagant conjectures (1606). *To level at the moon*, to be very ambitious. *To find an elephant in the moon*, to find a mare's nest. [Sir Paul Neal, a seventeenth century virtuoso, gave out that he had discovered an elephant in the moon. It turned out that a mouse had crept into his telescope. See Butler, *The Elephant in the Moon.*]

Moon-calf. 1. A monster (1609). 2. A false conception (1598). 3. A blockhead: see Buffle: also *mooncalfy* (1693).

Moon-curser. A link-boy, glimjack: his services were not required on moonlight nights (1696).

Mooner. An idler, gape-seed (q.v.).

Moon-eyed. Squinting.

Moonflaw. *Moonflaw in the brain*, an idiosyncrasy, craze: see Bee in the bonnet (1659).

Moonlight (or **Moonshine**). Smuggled spirits: from the night-work of smugglers. *Moonlight on the lake*, sarsaparilla. *A rush for moonlight*, an attempt at the prize for elocution.

Moonlighter. 1. A prostitute. 2. In pl., men (c. 1880) enforcing the decrees of secret societies by violence: their action was chiefly confined to the western counties, and their raids were nocturnal, whence the name: their notices were signed Captain Moonlight. 3. The same as Moonshiner (q.v.).

Moonlight-flitting. See Shooting-the moon: also *London-flitting* (1802).

Moonlighting. Playing the moonlighter (q.v.).

Moon-man. 1. A lunatic. 2. A gipsy. 3. A nocturnal thief (q.v.): also *minions of the moon* (1597).

Moon-raker. 1. An imaginary sail above the sky-scraper (q.v.), moon-sail (q.v.). 2. A Wiltshire man. 3. A smuggler. 4. A blockhead: see Buffle.

Moon-raking. Wool-gathering.

Moonshine. 1. Anything unreal or unsubstantial, humbug (q.v.), rot (q.v.) (1593). 2. The white brandy smuggled on the coasts of Kent and Sussex, and the gin in the north of Yorkshire (*Grose*). 3. A month (1605). 4. A dish of poached eggs served with a sauce (1605). As adj., (1) nocturnal; (2) empty; and (3) trivial (1596). *Gilded moonshine*, bogus bills of exchange.

Moonshiner. 1. A manufacturer of illicit whisky. 2. Fly-by-night persons who cheat their landlords and run away by night; when 'tis illegal to detain the goods (*Bee*).

Moonshining. Illicit distilling.

Moonshiny. Unreal.

Moonshooter. See To shoot the moon.

Moon's-minion. 1. A watchman, Charley (q.v.) (1828). 2. See Moon-man.

Moony. A noodle. As adj., (1) silly: also *moonish* (1600). (2) Drunk: see Screwed.

Moose-face. A rich, ugly-faced man.

Mop. 1. An annual fair in the west of England where farmers usually hire their servants. 2. A confirmed drunkard, Lushington (q.v.). 3. A drinking bout; *on the mop*, on the drink. 4. endearment: also *moppet* and *mopsy* (1388). 5. A grimace (1609). 6. A fool (1399). As verb, (1) to drink up, guzzle: see Lush: also *mop up* (1675); (2) to collect: also *mop up*. *To mop up*, to stop talking. *To mop* (or *wipe*) *the floor* (*ground*, or *earth*) *with one*, to knock one down. *To be mopped* (or *wiped*) *out*, to be ruined, floored (q.v.), killed. *All mops and brooms*, drunk: see Screwed (1828). *In the mops*, sulky.

Mope. 1. A dullard (1621). 2. In pl., low spirits, the hump (q.v.), the blues (q.v.). As verb, to despond (1594).

Moped. Stupid, melancholy: also *mopish*, *moping*, and *mope-eyed* (1621).

Moppet. See Mop.

Moppy. Drunk: see Screwed.

Mop-squeezer. A housemaid (*Grose*).

Mopsy. 1. A familiar term for a woman: specifically a young girl; a mop. 2. A dowdy, or homely woman (1696).

Mopus. 1. A drone, a dreamer (1755). 2. A small coin: said to be a corruption of the name of Sir Giles Mompesson, a monopolist of the reign of James I. 3. In pl., (mopusses) money: see Rhino.

Moral. 1. An exact counterpart (1590). 2. Abbreviation of moral certainty: see Cert; anything that is highly promising.

Moral-shocker. A novel dealing with sex, a hill-topper (q.v.).

Moray-coach. A cart (1808).

More. See Elbow, Power, Sacks, Seven, Twelve. *More so*, a general intensitive.

Moreish. Wishing for more: when there is scarcely enough of an eatable or drinkable, it is said to taste moreish.

Morgan. A bare-faced imposture.

Mork. A policeman.

Morning. An early dram, an eye-opener (q.v.): also *morning-rouser* (1814). *The top of the morning*, a cheery greeting.

Morningdrop. The gallows: see Nubbing-cheat.

Morning-hills (Winchester College). On holidays and Remedies we were turned out for a couple of hours on to St. Catherine's Hill . . . . once before breakfast (Morning Hills), and again in the afternoon (Middle Hills) (*Mansfield*).

Morning-rouser. See Morning.

Morning-sneak. Going out early to rob private houses or shops, by slipping in at the door unperceived, while the servant or shopman is employed in cleaning the steps, windows, etc. (*Vaux*).

Morning-star. A weapon used by the London train-bands, *temp.* Henry VIII.: it consisted in a spiked ball chained to a staff: called also Holy-water sprinkler.

Morocco-man. A lottery assurance agent. In 1796, the great State lottery employed 7500 morocco men. Their business was to go from house to house among the customers of the assurances, or to attend in the back parlours of public-houses, where the customers came to meet them.

Morpheus. *In the arms of Morpheus*: asleep: see Murphy.

Morris (or **Morrice**). To decamp (1773).

Morsel. 1. A person. 2. A harlot (1529).

Mort. 1. A woman, chaste or not. 2. A yeoman's daughter: also *mot.* Hence, *autem-mort*, a married woman; *walking* (or *strolling*) *mort*, a female tramp; *kinchin-mort*, a little girl; *dimber-mort*, a pretty wench (1567). 3. A large quantity, a great number (1694). *All amort*: see Amort.

Mortal. 1. Extreme: cf. Awful, Jolly, etc. (1679). 2. Drunk: see Screwed (1808). 3. Expletive and intensitive (1755). As adv., extremely: also *Mortally* (1625).

Mortar-board (or **Mortar**). The trencher-cap worn at certain public schools and at the Universities (1600).

Mortgage-deed. A pawnticket, tombstone (q.v.).

Moses. *To stand Moses*, to be subject to a bastardy order. *By the piper that played before Moses*, an oath: also *by the holy jumping mother of Moses.*

Mosey. To decamp (1838). *To mosey along*, (1) to jog along; (2) to bustle about.

Mosh. To leave a restaurant without paying: a corruption of mouch (mike, q.v.).

Moskeneer. To pawn for more than the pledge is worth. *Moskers*, (q.v.), men who make moskeneering a profession: also as subs., the agent.

Mosker. One who makes a living by taking advantage of the business incapacity of persons engaged in the pawnbroking trade, and by subtle wiles and subterfuge imposes on their credulity and weak good nature.

Mosque. A church or chapel.

Moss. Blue pigeon (q.v.). 2. Money: generic: see Rhino.

Mossyback. 1. A man hiding in woods or swamps — (till the moss grew on his back) — to escape the conscription for the Southern army: also *Mossback.* 2. An extreme conservative in politics. 3. An old-fashioned person, back-number (q.v.).

Mossyface (or **old Mossyface**). The ace of spades.

Most. Dining at an eating house and leaving without making payment (*Matsell*).

Mot (Mott). See Mort.

Mot-cart. 1. A brougham. 2. A mattress.

Moth. A prostitute, fly-by-night (q.v.).

Mother. 1. A bawd: also *Mother-abbess, Mother midnight* (1696). 2. A familiar mode of address (1647). 3. Hysteria (1605). *Does your mother know you're out?* a derisive street catch-phrase (1836). *Has your mother sold her mangle?* a catch phrase. *Teach your mother* (or *grandmother*) *to roast* (or *suck*) *eggs*, a derisive retort upon a piece of information or an offer of help: Fr., *les oisons veulent mener les oies paître*, the goslings want to drive the geese to pasture (1670). *He'll be a man before his mother*, a derisive retort.

Mother-and-daughter. Water.

Mother-Carey's Chickens. 1. Snow, goose-fluff (q.v.): Fr., *les mouches d'hiver.* 2. To fare alike and pay the same (*Bee*).

Mother-in-law. A mixture of old and bitter ales. *Mother-in-law's bit*, a small piece, mothers-in-law being supposed not apt to overload the stomachs of their husband's children (*Grose*).

Mother-midnight. 1. A midwife. 2. A bawd (1696).

Mother Morey. *I'll tell you a story of old Mother Morey*, in derision of an inconsequent yarn: an allusion to the nursery rhyme.

Mother's-milk. Gin: see **Drinks**: also spirits of any kind.

Mother's-son. A man.

Mottob. Bottom.

Mouch. See Mike.

Moucher. See Miker.

Mouchey. A Jew, Yid.

Mouching. See Miking.

Moulder. A lumbering boxer, one who fights as if he were moulding clay (*Bee*).

Mouldy. A purser's steward. As adj., (1) grey-headed: *mouldy-pate*, a lackey in powder; (2) worthless: e.g. a *mouldy* offer.

Mouldy-grubs. Travelling showmen, mountebanks who work in the open without tent or covering.

Mouldy-grubbing, working as described.

Mouldy-'un. A copper.

Mounch- (or Munch-) present. 1. 'He that is a great gentleman, for when his mayster sendeth him with a present, he wil take a tast thereof by the way: this is a bold knave, that sometyme will eate the best and leave the worst for his mayster' (*Awdley*). 2. A glutton. 3. One who takes bribes.

Mounseer. A Frenchman (1627).

Mount. 1. A saddle-horse (1856). 2. A bridge. As verb, (1) to wear, carry as an equipment (1822); (2) to prepare for representation on the stage: (3) to swear falsely, give false evidence: for hire (1789). *To mount the ass*, to go bankrupt: in France it was once customary to mount a bankrupt on an ass, face to tail, and ride him through the streets.

Mountain-dew. Scotch whisky: see Drinks.

Mountain-pecker. A sheep.

Mounter. Men who give false bale; or who, for a consideration, will swear to anything required. Fellows who hire clothes to wear for a particular occasion; those who wear second-hand clothes (*Matsell*).

Mounts-of-lilies. The paps: see Dairy (1694).

Mourner. One taking a drink, a spreester (q.v.) (1847).

Mourning. *Full mourning*, two black eyes; *half-mourning*, one black eye, or a mouse: Fr., *œufs sur le plat, yeux au beurre noir, yeux pochés.* As adj., bruised: also *in mourning* (1708).

Mourning-shirt. An unlaundered shirt (1650).

Mouse. 1. A black eye. 2. A term of endearment (1593). 3. The face. 4. The mouth: also as verb, to bite: cf. mousle (1557). 5. Mousepiece (q.v.). As verb, to go mouse-like: i.e., as in depreciation of one's self. As intj., be quiet, be still, talk low, whisper, step light, softly. *To speak like a mouse in a cheese*, to speak faintly or indistinctly. *As drunk as a mouse*, very drunk: see Screwed (1508).

Mouse-digger (Winchester College). A kind of diminutive pick-axe.

Mouse-hunt. A wencher (1595).

Mousepiece (Mouse-buttock, or Mouse). A piece of beef or mutton below the round, the part immediately above the knee joint (1591).

Mousetrap. 1. The mouth, potato-trap (q.v.). 2. A sovereign, canary (q.v.): see Rhino. *The parson's mousetrap*, matrimony.

Mousle. 1. To nibble. 2. To kiss.

Mouth. 1. A noisy fellow, prating fool, scold, virago: also *Mouth-almighty* (1696). 2. See Cheek. 3. The after-affects of a debauch, hot coppers (q.v.). As verb, to rant (1590). *To give mouth*, (1) to put into words; (2) to speak loudly and distinctly: also *mouth it* (1840). *Down in the mouth*, dejected (1608). *To laugh on the wrong* (or *other*) *side of one's mouth* (or *face*), to cry. See also All mouth, Big-mouth, Bone, Cat, Silver-spoon, Lion, Water.

Mouth-bet. A verbal bet.

Mouther. A blow on the mouth (1821).

Mouth-glue. Speech (1600).

Mouthing. Crying.

Mouthpiece. A counsel: Fr., *lessiveur*, whitewasher, *médecin*, doctor: cf. *malade*, prisoner, *l'hôpital*, prison; *parrain.*

Move. Any action or operation in life: the secret spring by which any project is conducted, as, There is a move in that business which you are not down to. To be flash to every move upon the board, is to have a general knowledge of the world, and all its numerous deceptions (*Vaux*).

Moveables. 1. Furniture. 2. Rings watches, or any toys of value (1599).

Moved. Bowed to.

Mow. To kiss.

Mozzy. Judy: Swatchell, Mr. Punch.

M. P. A policeman.

Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Knap, Mr. Nash, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Pullen. See Ferguson, Knap, Nash, Palm, and Pull.

Mrs. Goff. A woman.

Mrs. Grundy. A personification of respectability, society: e.g. What will Mrs. Grundy say? What will Mrs. Grundy think? (1798): from a character in *Speed the Plough.*

Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Gamp. *The Morning Herald* and *The Standard* when under the proprietorship of Mr. Baldwin.

Mrs. Jones. A water-closet.

Mrs. Lukey Props. A bawd.

Mrs. Partington. A personification

of impotent and senile prejudice: also a kind of Malaprop.

Mr. Speaker. A revolver: see Meat-in-the-pot.

Mrs. Suds. A laundress (1757).

M's and W's. *To make M's and W's*, to be drunk: see Screwed.

M. T. 1. Empties, or empty carriages: see Moll Thompson's mark. 2. An empty bottle, dead-man (q.v.).

Mubblefubbles. Low spirits: cf. Mulligrubs (1592).

Much. An expression of quality, e.g. Not much of a lawyer, not a very good lawyer. *Much of a muchness*, very much the same thing (1837). *Not much!* (or *not muchly!*), not likely, certainly not! in derision (1598). *Much cry and little wool*: see Cry.

Muchly. A great deal.

Muck. 1. A dripping (or oozing) mass of filth: hence, *muck-cheap*, very cheap; *muck-heap* (or *muck-scutcheon*), a foul sloven: cf. Midden; *muck-grubber*, a miser; *muckhill*, a dunghill; *muck-spout*, a foul-mouthed talker; *muck-suckle*, a filthy woman; *mucky-white*, sallow in complexion; *muck of sweat*, a violent perspiration, etc. (1766). 2. Anything vile. 3. Money: generic: see Rhino (1393). 4. A heavy fall: also *mucker*. 5. A coarse brute. As verb, (1) to spend; (2) ruin. *To go* (or *run*) *a muck* (or *a mucker*), to go headlong, be recklessly extravagant, run amok (q.v.): the homicidal frenzy (of a Malay), used originally in Port. forms *amouca*, *amuco*; hence, in a homicidal frenzy, furiously, viciously. *To go a muck* (or *mucker*), to go to smash, risk one's all, put on one's shirt (q.v.). *To muck about*, to fondle, mess about (q.v.).

Muckcook. To laugh behind one's back.

Muckender (**Muckinder**, **Muckinger**, or **Mucketer**). A handkerchief: Sp., *mocadero* (influenced by muck), from *muco*, mucus (1468).

Mucker. 1. See Muck. 2. A commissariat officer. As verb, to blunder badly, come to grief, fail.

Muckerer (or **Mokerer**). A miser (1381).

Muck-fork. A hand, finger.

Muckibus. Sentimentally drunk, maudlin: see Screwed (1756).

Muckingtogs (or **Muckintogs**). A mackintosh.

Muckrake. In politics, persons who fish in troubled waters, from the idea of their raking up the muck to see what valuable waifs and strays they may find in it. The term is generally used in the form of muckrakers and placemongers.

Mucks. See Mux.

Muck-snipe. A ruined gambler.

Muck-train. A commissariat train.

Muck-worm. 1. A miser. 2. An upstart.

Mud. 1. A fool, thick head. 2. A non-society man; dung (q.v.). *As clear as mud*, very obscure: also the reverse: as plain as may be. *His name is Mud*, said in cases of utter defeat; sent up Salt River (q.v.).

Mud-cat. A Mississippi man.

Mudcrusher. An infantryman: Fr., *pousse-caillou*. English synonyms: beetle-crusher (or squasher), blanket-boy (a volunteer), boiled lobster, brother-blade, caterpillar, cat-shooter (volunteer), coolie, flat-foot, fly-slicer (a cavalryman), grabby, jolly gravel-grinder (a marine, see Royal Jolly), leather-neck, light-bob, lobster, mud-major (q.v.), mud-plunger, plunger, prancer (a cavalryman), Q.H.B. (Queen's Hard Bargain, a malingerer), raw lobster (see Lobster), red-coat, red-herring, Saturday-soldier (a volunteer), scarlet-runner, skid, snoddy, swaddy, tame jolly (see Jolly), toe-footer (or bloody toe-footer), Tommy Atkins, tow-pow, wobbler, worm-crusher (or squasher).

Mudding-face. A fool, muff (or muffin-face), (q.v.).

Muddle. A state of confusion (1854). As verb, (1) to stupefy with liquor: see Screwed (1712). (2) To bungle. *To muddle away*, to squander aimlessly, waste one knows not how.

Muddle-head. A fool. *Muddle headed*, doltish (1837).

Muddler. A clumsy horse.

Mudge. A hat: see Golgotha.

Mudger. A milk-sop (1830).

Mud-hen. A female gambler in stocks and shares (Wall Street).

Mud-hole. A salt-water lagoon in which whales are captured.

Mud-honey. Mud, street slush.

Mud-hook. An anchor.

Mud-lark. 1. There is another class who may be termed riverfinders, although their occupation is connected only with the shore; they are commonly known by the name of mud-larks, from being compelled, in order to obtain the articles they seek, to wade sometimes up to their middle through the mud left on the shore by the retiring tide: the mud-larks collect whatever they happen to find, such as coals, bits of old-iron, rope, bones, and copper-nails that drop from ships while lying or repairing along shore (*Mayhew*). 2. A duck (*Grose*). 3. Any one with outdoor duties (City). 4. A street-arab (q.v.). 5. A hog (*Grose*).

Mud-major. An infantry major: i.e. one who, on parade, commands a company on foot.

Mud-picker. A garrison policeman.

Mud-player. A batsman partial to a soft wicket.

Mud-plunging. Tramping through slush in search of sympathy.

Mud-salad Market. Covent Garden.

Mud-sill. 1. A low-born, ignorant, contemptible wretch. 2. A Southerner: *circa* 1861-64.

Mud-slinger. A slanderer.

Mud-student. A student at the Agricultural College, Cirencester.

Muff. 1. A milksop, bungler, dolt: also muffin. 2. Anything badly bungled. As verb, (1) to bungle: e.g. to muff a catch; (2) to fail in an examination, be spun (q.v.) or plucked (q.v.), skip a cog (q.v.). *Marry, muff !* a not uncommon expression in our old writers, equivalent, I believe, to stuff, nonsense (*Dyce*).

Muffin. 1. When a man, availing himself of the custom of the country, has secured a young lady for the season, to share with him his sleigh-driving and other of the national amusements, in Canadian phrase she is called his muffin; her status is a sort of temporary wifehood, limited, of course, by many obvious restrictions, but resembling wifehood in this, that, though a close and continuous relationship, it has nothing in it which shocks, and much in it which allures, the Canadian mind; among the British commodities exported to our colonies, la pruderie Anglaise does not find a place (*Bartlett*). 2. See Muff. *Cold muffin,* poor: of no account.

Muffin-baker. A quaker (q.v.).

Muffin- (or Muff-) cap. 1. The flat woollen cap worn by charity-boys. 2. The new regulation head-gear in the British army: also Muffin.

Muffin-face. A hairless countenance.

Muffing. Bungling, clumsy.

Muffin-worry. A tea-party.

Muffle. 1. A boxing-glove: also Muffler (1755). 2. A stunning blow. 3. A crape mask: once a kind of vizard or veil worn by women (*Stow*, 1539).

Muffling-cheat. 1. A napkin (1573). 2. A towel (*Grose*).

Mufti. 1. Plain clothes: military. Hence, 2. a civilian (1834). Fr., *pekin.*

Mug. 1. The face, the mouth (*Grose*). 2. A dolt, a raw (or clumsy) hand, greenhorn (q.v.). 3. A cooling drink, a cup. As verb, (1) to strike (or catch it) in the face (1821); (2) to grimace (1762); (3) to rob, swindle; (4) see Mug up; (5) (*a*) to study e.g. I mugged all the morning, and shall thoke this afternoon, and (*b*) to take pains: e.g. He has mugged his study, and made it quite cud (Winchester College). *To cut mugs,* to grimace. *To mug oneself,* (1) to get drunk; (2) to make oneself cosy or comfortable. *To mug up,* (1) to paint, make up (q.v.); (2) to cram for examination: also to mug.

Muggard. Sullen, displeased.

Mugger. 1. A gipsy. 2. A student, hard reader. 3. A comedian whose best point is grimace: also *Mug-faker.* 4. A crocodile.

Muggill. A beadle (1610).

Mugging. 1. A thrashing. 2. Hard work. 3. Play with the face, grimacing.

Muggins. 1. A fool. 2. A borough-magnate, local leader.

Muggled. Cheap trash offered for sale as smuggled goods (1851).

Muggles. Restlessness, the fidgets (q.v.) (1750).

Muggy. 1. Tipsy: see Screwed. 2. Stifling and damp: of the weather: also *Mugginess.*

Mughouse. An alehouse: see Lush-crib (1710).

Mug-hunter. See Pot-hunter.

Mugster (Winchester College). One who mugs (q.v.). [*Notions*: *ster* is generally the termination of the agent, as in Brockster, Thokester, etc. Cf. Harrow termination, *er* as in footer, a footballer;

loather, one to be loathed: see Revolter; Disguster.

Mug-trap. A fool-catcher.

Mugwump. (1) A man of consequence. Hence (2) one who sets himself up as better than his fellows; (3) an independent Republican, who, in 1884 openly refused to vote for the party nominee; and (4) a citizen who declines to take any part in politics: now generally applied to those who profess to study the interests of their country before those of their party. [*Norton*: After the Independent movement was started, the word was launched on its career of popularity. *The Critic* of September 6th, 1884, contained a note to the effect that the word was of Algonquin origin, and occurred in Elliott's Indian Bible, being used to translate such titles as lord, high-captain, chief, great man, leader, or duke. In Matthew vi. 21, it occurs as mukxuomp; and again in Genesis xxxvi. 40–43, and several times in II. Samuel xxiii. As is frequently the case in American politics, the word was used as a term of derision and reproach by one section, and accepted with a half-humorous sense of its aptness by the other]. As verb, to abstain from politics. Also *Mugwumpery* (or *Mugwumpism*), the habit of *Mugwumping*.

Mule. 1. An obstinate person, male or female. 2. An impotent man. 3. A day hand in the composing-room. *To shoe one's mule*, to embezzle (1655).

Mull. 1. A cow (1689). 2. A muddle, result of mismanagement (1821). 3. A simpleton: generally *Old mull* or *Regular mull*. As verb, (1) to spoil, to muddle, muff (q.v.); (2) to spend money.

Muller. *To muller a hat*, to cut down a chimney-pot hat into the low-crowned *muller*. [From Müller, who murdered Mr. Briggs on the Brighton Railway, and tried to disguise himself by this means].

Mulligrubs (or **Mollygrubs**). 1. Colic, the collywobbles (q.v.) (1619). 2. Mubble-fubbles (q.v.). 3. A pretended or counterfeit sullenness, a resolute, and fixed, and artificial displeasure, in order to gain some point desired.

Mullingar Heifer. A girl with thick ankles.

Multicattivo. Very bad.

Multy. An expletive: cf. Monday.

Mum. 1. In pl., the lips; more frequently muns (q.v.). As adj., silent; also as adv. and in phr., *Mum's the word! Keep mum! Mum your dubber*, silence! Also *mum-chance* and *mum-budget*! As verb, to act (1569).

Mumble-crust. A toothless man or woman (1623).

Mumble-matins. A priest (1576).

Mumble-news. A tale-bearer (1594).

Mumble-sparrow. A cruel sport practised at wakes and fairs, in the following manner: A cock sparrow whose wings are clipped, is put into the crown of a hat; a man having his arms tied behind him, attempts to bite off the sparrow's head, but is generally obliged to desist, by the may pecks and pinches he receives from the enraged bird (*Grose*).

Mumbo-Jumbo. 1. An African deity. 2. Unmeaning jargon.

Mum-budget. See Mum.

Mum-glass. The Monument on Fish St. Hill (1760).

Mummer. 1. A player (1599). 2. The mouth: see Potato-trap.

Mummery-cove. An actor.

Mumming-show. A travelling entainment, strolling company.

Mummy. *To beat to a mummy*, to beat severely.

Mump. 1. To beg (1624). 2. To overreach (1671).

Mumper. A beggar. English synonyms: abram-man (or cove), bawdy-basket, Bedlam-beggar, blue-gown (old Scots'), cadator, cadger, canter, croaker, curtail, durry-nacker, dry-land sailor, filer, frater, goose-shearer, Irish-toyle, key-hole whistler, master of the black art, maunder, milestone-monger, moucher, mud-plunger, mugger, mumper, munger, needy-mizzler, niffler, overland-mailer (or man), palliard, paper-worker, pikey, ruffler, scoldrum, shivering James, (or Jemmy), shyster, skipper-bird, skitting-dealer, silver-beggar, street-ganger, strolling-mort, sun-downer, swag-man, tinkard, Tom of Bedlam, traveller, turnpike, uhlan, upright man, washman, whip-jack (1665).

Mumper's-hall. A hedge tavern, beggar's alehouse (*Grose*).

Mumping. Begging.

Mumpins. Alms (1460).

Mumpish. Dull, dejected.

Mumple mumper. See Mummer.

Mumps. Low spirits, ill-humour (1599).

Mumpsimus. An old error in which men obstinately persevere: taken from the tale of an ignorant monk, who in his breviary had always said mumpsimus instead of *sumpsimus*, and being told of his mistake, said, 'I will not change my old mumpsimus for your new *sumpsimus*.'

Mund. See Muns.

Mundungus. Bad tobacco (1633). As adj., stinking (1750).

Mung. News. *Mung-news*, false news (1849). As verb, to beg. *Munging*, begging (1811).

Mungarly (Munjari, or Mungare). Food, something by way of a meal (1851).

Mungarly-casa. A baker's shop.

Munpin. In pl., the teeth: see Grinders (1450).

Muns. 1. The mouth, the face: also *Mund*. 2. In sing., a Mohawk (q.v.).

Munster-heifer. An Irish woman. A woman with thick legs is said to be like a Munster heifer; i.e. beef to the heels (*Grose*).

Munster-plums. Potatoes, murphies (q.v.).

Mur. Rum. *Nettock of mur*, quartern of rum.

Murder. See Blue Murder. *The murder is out*, the mystery is displayed.

Murerk. The mistress of the house: see Burerk.

Murkauker. A monkey. [Jacko Macauco, or Maccacco, was a famous fighting monkey, who used some fifty years ago to display his prowess in the Westminster Pit.]

Murphy. 1. A potato: also *murph*: cf. Donovan. English synonyms: bog-orange, Donovan, Irish apricot, Munster-plum (or orange), murph, ruggin, spud, tatur (1811). 2. An Irishman. 3. Morpheus, i.e. sleep (1748).

Murphy's-face. A pig's head (1819).

Mush (Mush-topper, or Mushroom). 1. An umbrella (1821). 2. The mouth (*Grose*).

Mush- (Mushroom-) faker (or (Mush - topper - faker). A street vendor of umbrellas, an umbrella-mender (1821). *Mushfaking*, mending umbrellas.

Mushroom. 1. A hat. 2. An upstart (1622).

Music. 1. Fun; frolic. 2. A verdict of not guilty. 3. The watchword among highwaymen, signifying the person is a friend, and must pass unmolested (*Grose*). 4. An Irish term in tossing up, to express the harp side, or reverse, of a farthing or halfpenny, opposed to the head (*Lex. Bal.*). *To face the music*: see Face.

Music-box. A piano.

Musicianer. A musician (1848).

Muslin (or Bit of Muslin). A woman: see Petticoat (1823).

Musn't-mention-'ems. Trousers: see Kicks.

Muss. 1. Confusion, a fuss, quarrel, row. 2. A term of endearment: probably from Mouse (1596). As verb, to confuse, disorder, mess-up.

Mussy. Disordered: also *mussed-up*.

Mustang. An officer entering the U.S. navy from the merchant service, after serving through the civil war.

Mutcher. A thief whose quarry is drunken men, a butcher (q.v.).

Mute. An undertaker's servant, who stands at the door of a person lying in state: so named from being supposed mute with grief (*Grose*).

Mutton (Laced Mutton). 1. A loose woman. 2. Generic for the sex (1569). 3. In pl., the Turkish loans of 1865 and 1873: they were in part secured on the sheep-tax. 4. A sheep (1595). *Bow-wow mutton*: see Bow-wow. *To cut one's mutton*, to dine. *Dead as mutton*: see Dead (1835). *Mutton dressed lamb-fashion*, an old woman dressed young. *To return to one's muttons*, to hark back to the point at issue. The phrase is taken from an old French play, called *l'Avocat Pathelin*, in which a woollen-draper charges a shepherd with stealing sheep; in telling his grievance he kept for ever running away from his subject; and to throw discredit on the defendant's attorney, accused him of stealing a piece of cloth; the judge had to pull him up every moment with '*Mais, mon ami, revenons à nos moutons.*' *Who stole the mutton*, a common street jeer flung on policemen when the force was first organised, and rose thus: The first case the force had to deal with was the theft of a leg of mutton; but they wholly failed to detect the thief, and the laugh turned against them (*Brewer*).

Mutton-chops. 1. A sheep's head. 2. Whiskers trimmed mutton-chop fashion: also *mutton-chop whiskers.*

Mutton-cove. 1. The Coventry Street end of Windmill Street. 2. A man addicted to women.

Muttoner (obsolete, Winchester College). 1. A blow on the knuckles from a cricket-ball. 2. A mutton monger (q.v.).

Mutton-eyed. See Sheep's-eyed.

Mutton-fist (or hand). A hand, large, bony, and coarse (1672).

Mutton-headed. Stupid (*Grose*).

Mutton-monger. A whoremonger (1594).

Muttonous. Slow, monotonous: Fr., *guitare.*

Mutton-pies. The eyes: see Peepers.

Mutton-thumper. A bungling workman.

Mutton-walk. 1. The saloon at Drury Lane Theatre (1821). 2. Any resort frequented by women of the town; specifically Piccadilly.

Mux. To muddle.

Muzz. 1. To intoxicate (1836). 2. (Westminster School). To devote oneself to study and eschew sports.

Muzzle. 1. The mouth (1821). 2. A beard (*Grose*). As verb, (1) to strike in the mouth (1851); (2) to drink; (3) to kiss (1697).

Muzzled bull-dog. The great gun which stands housed in the officer's ward-room cabin: also general term for main-deck guns.

Muzzler. 1. The mouth. 2. A dram of spirits; a go (q.v.).

Muzzy. Half-tipsy, dull with drink: see Screwed (1730).

My Aunt (Aunt Jones or Mrs. Jones). The W.C., Mrs. Jones (q.v.).

My Bloater. See Bloater.

My eye! An exclamation of surprise: see All my eye (1819).

Myla. See Miler.

Myll. See Mill.

My Lord. See Lord.

My Nabs. See Nabs.

Mynt. See Mint.

My Pippin. See Pippin.

My Stars and Garters. See Star.

Mystery. A sausage: also Mystery-bag. English synonyms: bags of mystery, chambers of horrors, darbies, dogs (dog's meat or dog's body), mystery-bags, Sharp's-Alley blood-worms, sore-leg.

My Tulip. See Tulip.

My Uncle. See Uncle.

My Unconverted Friend. See Unconverted friend.

My Wig. See Wig.

Nab (or Nap). 1. The head: also Napper. 2. A hat, cap: also *nab-cheat* and *napper*: see Golgotha (1531). 3. A fop. 4. A police officer. As verb, (1) Primarily, to catch, but also a general verb of action: e.g. *to nab the rust,* (*a*) to take offence, turn rusty; (*b*) to receive punishment unexpectedly; *to nab the snow,* to steal hedge-linen; *to nab the stifles,* to be hanged; *to nab the stoop,* to stand in the pillory; *to nab the teize,* to be whipped; *to nab it on the dial,* to get a blow in the face; *to be nabbed,* to be arrested; *to nap a cog,* to cheat (at dice); *to nap the bib,* to cry; *to nab the regulars,* to divide a booty; *to nap a winder,* to be hanged; *to nap it at the nask,* to be lashed at Bridewell: see Bib, Regulars, and Rust. English synonyms (see also Cop and Prig, when meaning to take or receive): to bag, bone, box, claw, collar, cop, grab, nail, nap, nibble, nick, nim, nip, pinch, pull over, rope in, scoop, smug, snabble, snaffle, snake, snam, sneak, snitch. (2) To bite. *His nabs*: see Nibs.

Naball. A fool.

Nabber (or Nabbler). A thief. *Nabbery,* theft.

Nabbing-cull. A bailiff, constable: also Nabman (1780).

Nabby. See Nobby.

Nab-cheat. See Nab.

Nab-girder. A bridle: also *Nob-girder.*

Nabob. 1. Orig. a nobleman, and

2. a rich man: hence, *nabobbery*, the class of nabobs (1612).

Nabs on. A hall-mark.

Nace. See Nase.

Nack. 1. See Knack. 2. A horse.

Nacky. Ingenious, full of knacks (q.v.) or dexterity. Also *nackie.*

Nag. A horse, mount (q.v.): see Prad: also Naggon, Naggie, or Naggy, and (Scots'), a horse of blood (1189). As verb, to scold, fault-find persistently, tiff. Whence *nagger*, a persistent scold; *nagging*, fault-finding; and *naggy*, shrewish, irritable (1846).

Nag-drag. A term of three months' imprisonment: see Drag.

Naggle. To toss the head in a stiff and affected manner (*Halliwell*, 1847).

Nail (Winchester College). *To stand up under the nail*, the punishment inflicted on a boy detected in a lie; he was ordered to stand up on Junior Row, just under the centre sconce, during the whole of school time: at the close of it he received a Bibler. 2. Disposition, spirit, nature. *The auld nail*, original sin; *a bad nail*, a bad disposition; *a guid nail*, a good disposition. As verb, (1) to catch: like nab (q.v.) and cop (q.v.), a general verb of action: whence *nailing*, thieving (1383); (2) to work as a carpenter; (3) to back-bite: also *to brass nail*: see Nail-box; (4) (Winchester College), to impress for any kind of fagging. Also, to detect. *On the nail*, at once, on the spot, instanter (1596). *To hit the nail* (or *the right nail*) *on the head* (or *to drive the nail home*), to succeed, come to the point: Fr., *toucher au blanc* (to hit the white) (1574). *To put* (or *drive*) *a nail in one's coffin*, (1) to do anything that shortens life: specifically, to drink. As sub., a drink (*Grose*); (2) to hasten an end, advance a business by a step. *Hard as nails*, (1) in good condition; (2) harsh, unyielding, pitiless. *To nail to the counter*, to expose as false: as a lie: from putting a counterfeit coin out of circulation by fastening it with a nail to the counter of a shop. *Naked as my nail*, stark-naked (1605). *Off at the nail*, (1) it is conceivable that this phrase . . . originated in family and feudal connexion — when one acted as an alien, relinquishing the society, or disregarding the interests of his own tribe, he might be said to go off at the nail, as denoting that he in effect renounced all the ties of blood (*Jamieson*); (2) mad; (3) tipsy: see Screwed. *Nails on the toes*, as in saying, Wit was mouldy ere your grandsires had nails to their toes. Also see Dead, Down.

Nail-bearers. The fingers: see Fork.

Nail-box. A centre of back-biting: see Nail.

Nailer. 1. An extortioner. 2. Something out of the common; a clipper (q.v.): a general term of excellence: e.g. a handsome woman, a clever student, a fast horse, and so forth.

Nailing. 1. See Nail. 2. Excellent, almost beyond comparison.

Nailrod. See Rod.

Nair. Rain.

Naked. Raw spirit, neat (q.v.).

Nale. An alehouse.

Nam. A man. *Nam esclop*, a policeman.

Namase. See Nammous.

Namby-pamby. Affected, effeminate, overnice. [Swift's invention, and first applied to the affected short-lined verses addressed by Ambrose Philips to Lord Carteret's infant children]. Also as subs. and verb, to flatter, pamper.

Name. *His name is Dennis* (or *Mud*), a phrase indicative of collapse or defeat; to be sent up Salt River (q.v.), to be played out (q.v.). *To take one's name in vain*, to mention by name: the person spoken of having unexpectedly or accidentally overheard (1708). *To put one's name into it*, to get a thing well forward, to greatly advance the matter.

Nameless Creek (The). A lucky place whose whereabouts is for that reason untold.

Nammous (Namase, Nommus, or Namous). Be off! Skedaddle!

Nammow. A woman. *Delo nammow*, an old woman.

Namurs (The). The Royal Irish Regiment, formerly The 18th Foot. Also Paddy's Blackguards.

Nan. A maid (1596).

Nan-boy. 1. An effeminate man, a Miss Nancy (q.v.) (1691). 2. A catamite.

Nanny. 1. A goat. 2. A wanton.

Nanny-goat. 1. An anecdote (1860). 2. In pl., the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, formerly the Twenty-third Foot:

the regiment has a pet goat which is led with garlanded horns and a shield at the head of the drums — how the custom arose is unknown. Also The Royal Goats.

Nanny-hen. *As nice as a Nanny-hen*, very affected, delicate: cf. Nun's hen.

Nanny-shop (or **house**). A brothel (*B. E.*, *c.* 1696).

Nantee, adv. (Lingua Franca). Nor any, I have none, also shut up! or leave off! *Nantee palaver*, hold your tongue: *Nanty dinarly*, no money; *nanty parnarly*, be careful! [Ital., *niente*, nothing].

Nantz. Brandy (1691).

Nap. 1. See Nab, subs. and verb. 2. A short sleep (*B. E.*, *c.* 1696). 3. A napoleon: a 20 franc piece. Fr. gold coin. 4. Ale, strong beer: an abbreviation of nappy (q.v.). As verb, to cheat at dice (1696). *To catch* (or *take*) *napping*, to take unawares, take in the act (1587). *To go nap*, to risk everything on a single point, go the whole hog (q.v.): from the game of cards. *To nap toco for yam*, to get more beating than is given. See also Regulars, Slap, and Tieze.

Napkin. See Dish-clout. *To be buried in a napkin*, (1) to be asleep; (2) to be half-witted. *Knight of the napkin*, a waiter, grasshopper (q.v.).

Napkin-snatching. Stealing pocket-handkerchiefs: also napkin-snatcher.

Nap-nix. An amateur player of minor parts for the sake of experience.

Napper. 1. See Nab. 2. A cheat, thief (q.v.). *Napper* (or *naper*) *of naps*, a sheep-stealer (1696). 3. A false witness. 4. See Rain-napper.

Nappy. Strong ale: also *napping-gear*. As adj. (1) strong or heady; (2) drunk (1593).

Nare. See Never.

Nark (or **Copper's-nark**). A police spy, common informer. English synonyms (see also Beak and Copper): buz-man, D, dee, deeker, fox, marker, nose, noser, peach (omnibus spy), pig, piper (omnibus spy), queer-rooster, rat, rosser (or rozzer), setter, shadow, shepherd, snitcher, split, spotter, squealer, stag (or stagger), tec, teck, worm. As verb, to see, watch, spy. English synonyms: to buz, castell, dick, fox, lay, mark, nose, ogle, pipe, quiz, roast (or roast-brown), shadow, shepherd, skin, snitch, spot, stag, tout, twire, be on the beefment, be on the pounce.

Narp. A shirt: see Flesh-bag (1857).

Narrish. Thrifty: see Narrow.

Narrow. Ne'er a, not one (1750). As adj., (1) see Near. (2) Stupid, foolish, the reverse of fly (q.v.) or wide-awake (q.v.); (3) when the bias of the bowl holds too much (*B. E.*, 1696: bowlers'); (4) of a narrow or slender fortune (*B. E.*). *All narrow*, said by the butchers one to another when their meat proves not so good as expected (*B. E.*).

Narrowdale Noon. One o'clock, The top of Narrowdale Hills, in Staffordshire, is so high that the inhabitants under it never see the sun for one quarter of the year, and when it reappears they do not see it till one o'clock, which they call Narrowdale Noon. A thing long deferred (*Brewer*).

Narrow-gauge. Inferior, small: e.g. a narrow-gauge mule, a worthless beast.

Narrow-squeak. See Squeak.

Nary. Not one [ne'er a]. See Narrow. *Nary red*, not a red cent: also as an emphatic negative.

Nasal. The nose: see Conk.

Nase. Drunken; also *nace*, *naze*, and *nazy* (1536).

Nash. 1. To go away from, or quit, any place or company; speaking of a person who is gone, he is nash'd, or Mr. Nash is concerned. 2. To throw away; e.g. Nash your leading strings, throw off all restraint.

Nash-gab. Insolent language, impertinence.

Nask (or **Naskin**). A prison: see Cage (1686).

Nasty. Ill-tempered, disagreeable, cutting: e.g. *nasty jar*, a stinging retort; *nasty knock* (or *one*), a disagreeable experience; *nasty one in the eye*, a telling blow.

Nasty-man. See Garrotte.

Nation. An abbreviation of damnation, a vulgar term used in Kent, Sussex, and the adjacent counties, for very; nation good, a nation long way, a very long way (*Grose*).

National Intelligencer. *Unable to say National Intelligencer*, drunk: see Screwed: cf. British Constitution.

Natty. Neat, tidy, spruce. *Nattily*, nattiness (1557).

Natty-lad. A young thief or pickpocket (*Grose*).

Natural. 1. A mistress (1688). 2. An idiot, simpleton (1595). 3. A bastard. 4. A clever, quick-witted, generous man. 5. A kind of wig (c. 1724). As adj., not squeamish.

Nature's Garb. Nakedness. English synonyms: to be abram, all face, in one's birthday suit, in buff, to cast one's skin, peeled, on the shallow (q.v.).

Naughty. 1. Loose, obscene (1550). 2. Flash (q.v.).

Naughty-pack. 1. A wanton. 2. A half reproving endearment of children.

Navel. *Proud below the navel*, amorous, or wanton; *navel-tied*, inseparable (1629).

Navigator. A potato, 'tatur. *Navigator Scot*, a hot baked potato: also *Nav.*

Navvy. An abbreviation of navigator, a term humorously applied to excavators employed in cutting and banking canals, making dykes to rivers, etc. (1848).

Navy-office. The Fleet Prison. *Commander of the Fleet*, the warden of the Fleet prison.

Navy-sherry. Man-of-war grog.

Nawpost. *Mr. Nawpost*, a foolish fellow (1696).

Nay. To deny.

Nay-word. A common by-word or proverb (*B. E.*).

Nazold. A vain fool (1629).

Nazy. See Nase.

N. C. Enough said (nuf ced), cf. O.K.

Near (also Nigh and Narrow). 1. Formerly careful, now (contemptuously) stingy, close-fisted: Fr., *serré*. Thus *nearness*, a parsimonious habit (1591). 2. On the left side: cf. Off (1823).

Neardy. A person in authority—master, parent, foreman (*Hotten*).

Neat. Unmixed with water, naked (q.v.); short (q.v.); straight (q.v.). English synonyms: aboriginal, ah! don't mingle, as it came from its mother, bald-faced, bare-footed, clean from the still, cold-without, *in puris naturalibus*, in a state of nature, naked, neat is imported, neat, *simplex munditiis*, out of the barrel, plain, primitive, pure, raw, raw recruit, reverend, stark-naked, straight, stripped, unalloyed, unmarried, unsophisticated, uncorrupted, untempered, virgin, without a shirt (1596). *As neat as* (*a bandbox, a new pin, wax, ninepence*), as neat as may be. *Neat, but not gaudy*, etc., spick and span, fresh as a daisy.

Neb (or Nib). 1. Originally the bill of a bird; hence the face, mouth, or nose: specifically of a woman (1225) 2. A pen (*B. E.*). 3. The neck (1535).

Nebuchadnezzar. A vegetarian.

Necessary. 1. A bedfellow. 2. A privy: also *necessary house* (or *vault*) (1609).

Neck. 1. To hang: see Ladder. *Neck-cloth* (*neckinger, necklace, neck-squeezer*, or *necktie*), a halter; *necktie-sociable*, a hanging done by a Vigilance Committee; *neck-question*, a hanging matter, something vital; *neck-verse*, a 'Favor (formerly) indulged to the Clergy only, but (now) to the Laity also, to mitigate the Rigor of the Law, as in Man-slaughter, etc.; reading a verse out of an old Manuscript Latin Psalter (tho' the Book now used by the Ordinary is the same printed in an Old English Character) save the Criminal's Life; nay now even the Women (by a late act of Parliament) have (in a manner) the benefit of their clergy, tho' not so much as put to Read; for in such cases where the men are allowed it; the Women are of course sizz'd in the fist, without running the risque of a Halter by not Reading' (*B. E.*). *Neck-weed*, hemp, or gallows-grass (q.v.); *to wear a hempen necktie*, to be hanged. 2. To swallow: also *to wash the neck*. *Neck and crop*, turn him out neck and crop, is to push one forth all of a heap, down some steps or stairs being understood, so that the patient may pitch upon his neck (or head) (*Dict. Turf*). *Neck or nothing*, at every risk, desperately (1708). *Neck and neck*, close, almost equal: as horses in a race. *On* (or *in*) *the neck of*, close upon, or behind (1598). *To win* (or *lose*) *by a neck*, to win (or lose) by next to nothing. *To break the neck of anything*, to get the worst part done; also (old), to hinder from being done. *To be shot in the neck*, to be drunk: see Screwed. (1855). *Unable to neck it*, lacking moral courage. Also see Shut.

Neck-beef. *As coarse as neck-beef*, very coarse, of the poorest quality.

As subs. a general synonym for coarseness.

Neck-oil. Drink, lap (q.v.).

Neck-stamper. A potboy.

Nectar. Drink, lap (q.v.).

Ned. A guinea: in America a 10 dollar piece: see Rhino. *Half a ned*, half a guinea or 5 dollar piece: also *neddy* (1754). 2. See Neddy.

Nedash. Nothing, of no use.

Neddy. 1. An ass, moke (q.v.): also Ned (1658). 2. A fool, donkey (q.v.) (1823). 3. A large quantity, plenty: Fr., *hugrement*: 4. A life-preserver; so called from one Kennedy whose head was broken in St. Giles's by a poker (*Brewer*): Fr., *tourne-clef*. English synonyms: billy, cosh, colt. 5. see Ned.

Ned-fool. A noisy idiot (1600).

Ned Stokes. The four of spades (1791).

Needful (The). Money: see Rhino (1771).

Needham. *On the highroad to Needham*, Needham is a market-town in this county [Suffolk]; according to the wit of the vulgar, they are said to be in the highway thither which do hasten to poverty (*Ray*). Cf. Peckham, Land of Nod, Bedfordshire, etc.

Needle. A sharper, a thief (q.v.). As verb, (1) to annoy, irritate, rile (q.v.). *To give* (or *get*) *the needle*, to annoy (or be annoyed); (2) to haggle over a bargain. Also see Spanish needle, St. Peter's needle, Knight.

Needle-and-thread. Bread.

Needle-dodger. A dressmaker.

Needle-point. A sharper: also *needle-pointer* (1696).

Needy-mizzler or **(Needy).** A ragged person.

Neel. Lean.

Ne'er-be-lickit. Nothing which could be licked by a dog or cat, nothing whatever.

Ne'er-do-well. One who is never likely to do well. As adj., incorrigible.

Neergs. Greens.

Neggledigee. A woman's undress gown, vulgarly termed a neggledigee (*Grose*).

Negotiate. To contrive, accomplish.

Negro. A black man, slave (*Grose*).

Negro-head. A brown loaf.

Negro-nos'd. Flat-nosed (1696).

Neighbourly. Friendly, obliging (*Dict. Cant. Crew*, 1696).

Neman. Stealing.

Nenti. Nothing: cf. Nantie.

Nephew. The illegitimate son of a priest: see Niece.

Neptune's Bodyguard. The Royal Marines. Also The Little Grenadiers, The Jollies, The Globe Rangers, and The Admiral's Regiment.

Nerve. One of those heroic adventurers, who have thought proper to distinguish themselves by the titles of Buck, Blood, and Nerve (1753). 2. Impudence, cheek.

Nescio. *To sport a nescio*, to pretend not to understand anything. After the senate-house examination for degrees, the students proceed to the schools to be questioned by the proctor. According to custom immemorial the answers must be Nescio. The following is a translated specimen: *Q*. What is your name? *A*. I do not know. *Q*. What is the name of this University? *A*. I do not know. *Q*. Who was your father? *A*. I do not know. The last is probably the only true answer of the three (*Grose*).

Nest. 1. In pl., list of patterer's words. *Nests*, varieties (*Mayhew*). 2. A place: as of residence; a centre: as of activity; a gang: as of thieves (1595). See also Feather.

Nest-cock (Nescock, or Nestle-cock). A tenderling, a fondling.

Nest-egg. Money saved, a little hoard.

Nestling. Canary birds brought up by hand (*B. E.*). *To keep a nestling*, to be restless, uneasy, fidgety (1696).

Nestor (Winchester College). An undersized boy.

Net. *All is fish that comes to net*, all serves the purpose (1670).

Netgen. Half a sovereign: see Rhino.

Nettle. To annoy, provoke, rile (q.v.), needle (q.v.). *To have lain on a nettle*, to be peevish or out of temper; *nettled*, (1) annoyed; (2) afflicted; *nettler*, a spoil-temper (q.v.) (1592). *Nettle in, dock out*, fickleness of purpose, thing after thing, place after place (1369). Also see Rose.

Nevele. Eleven. Thus, *nevele gen*, eleven shillings; *nevele yanneps*, elevenpence.

Never. *Never-* (or *nare*) *a-face-*

but-his-own, not a penny in the pocket.

Never-fear. Beer.

Never-never-country. 1. The confines of civilization: specifically (in Queensland) the occupied pastoral land furthest from the more settled districts. 2. The future life, heaven.

Never-too-late-to-mend-shop. A repairing tailor's.

Never-wag Man-of-War. The Fleet Prison: see Cage (1821).

Nevis. Seven. Thus, *nevis-gen*, seven shillings; *nevis-stretch*, seven years' hard; *nevis-yanneps*, sevenpence.

New. *To new collar and cuff*, to furbish up an old sermon.

New-Billingsgate. The Stock Exchange: see Gorgonzola Hall.

New-bug (Marlborough School). A New boy.

Newcastle. *To carry* (or *send*) *coals to Newcastle*, to undertake a work of supererogation: see Owl (1662).

New-chum. A new arrival: cf. Currency, Sterling, and Lime-juice.

Newcome. A new arrival, fresh face: as a freshman at college; a new midshipman; a new baby: also *Johnnie Newcombe* (1821).

New-drop. The scaffold used at Newgate for hanging criminals; which, dropping down, leaves them suspended. By this improvement, the use of that vulgar vehicle, a cart, is entirely left off (*Grose*): introduced 1786.

New England of the West. The State of Minnesota: many New Englanders settled there.

Newgate. A gaol; specifically the prison for the City of London: also *Newman's Hotel* (or *tea-gardens*). Hence, *Newgate-bird* (or *Newgate-nightingale*), a thief, sharper, or gaol-bird; *Newgate* (or *Tyburn*) *collar, fringe*, or *frill*, a collar-like beard worn under the chin; *Newgate-frisk*, a hanging; *Newgate-knocker*, a lock of hair like the figure 6, twisted from the temple back towards the ear (chiefly in vogue 1840-50 — see Aggerawators); *Newgate-ring*, moustache and beard as one, without whiskers; *Newgate-saint*, a condemned criminal; *to dance the Newgate hornpipe*, to be hanged; *Newgate-solicitor*, a pettifogging attorney; *born on Newgate-steps*, of thievish origin; *as black as Newgate*, very black; *Newgate seize me*, the gaol be my portion; *Newman's lift*, the gallows (1531). As verb, to imprison (1740).

New Guinea. First possession of income (*Grose*).

New-hat. A guinea.

New Jerusalem. See Cubitopolis.

Newland. See Abraham Newland.

New Light. 1. *One of the New Light*, a methodist; [one] who attends the gaols to assist villains in evading justice (*Grose*). 2. New money.

Newmarket. The best two in three in tossing.

Newmarket-heath Commissioner. A highwayman, road-agent (q.v.).

New pin. *Smart* (*bright*, *neat*, or *nice*) *as a new pin*, first-class.

New plates. See Plates.

News. *Tell me news!* a retort to a stale jest or chestnut (q.v.); usually preceded by that's ancient history: cf. Queen Anne.

New Settlements. Final reckoning (*Grose*).

Newtown-pippin. A cigar.

Newy (Winchester College). The cad paid to look after the canvas tent in Commoner fields.

N.F. A knowing tradesman: an abbreviation of 'no flies.'

N. G. No go, no good, of no avail.

N. H. (That is, *Norfolk Howard*), a bug: from one Bugg who, it is said, so changed his name in 1863).

Nias. A simpleton: from the Fr., *niais* (116).

Nib (or **Nib-cove**). 1. A gentleman: whence *half-nibs*, one who apes gentility (Fr., *un herz*); *niblike* (or *nibsome*), gentlemanly; *nibsomest-cribs*, the best houses. 2. See Neb. 3. A fool. As verb, (1) to catch, arrest, nab (q.v.); (2) see Nibble.

Nibble. 1. To catch, steal, cheat: whence *nibbler* (or *nibbing-cull*), a petty thief or fraudulent dealer (1608). 2. To consider a bargain, or an opportunity, eagerly but carefully: as a fish considers bait. *To get a nibble*, to get an easy job.

Nibs (or **Nabs**). 1. Self: *his nibs*, the person referred to; *your nibs*, yourself; *my nibs*, myself—dis child. 2. Friend, boy, etc., in addressing a person: also *nibso*: cf. Watch (1819).

Nice. 1. Simple, witless (1297). 2. Squeamish, precise: cf. Swift's definition of a nice man, as a man of nasty ideas (1543). 3. Pleasant; agreeable: e.g. a nice woman or a nice fellow; cf. the satirical extension: as in a nice young man for a small tea-party.

Nicholas (Saint). The devil: see Old Nick. *Saint Nicholas's clerk*, a highwayman: also *knight of St. Nicholas*, and *St. Nicholas clergyman*: St. Nicholas was the patron saint of thieves (1595).

Nick. 1. A five-cent piece: abbreviation of nickel. 2. See Old Nick. 3. A dent, or island, in the bottom of a beer can: cf. Kick. Hence *nick and froth* (1) false measure; (2) a publican (1529). 4. The exact or critical instant (1594). 5. A winning throw at dice (1721). As verb, (1) to steal; (2) to cheat: Fr., *rifler*; (3) to drink heartily; as, he nicks fine; (4) to break windows with copper coins: hence, *nicker*, a person addicted to the practice (1712); (5) to fool (1593); (6) to score at dice (1598); (7) to hit the mark (1690); (8) to nickname (1634); (9) to catch, arrest (1700); (10) to compare, jump with; (11) to indent a beer can, falsify a measure by indenting and frothing up (1628). *To nick the pin*, to drink fairly. *To knock a nick in the post*, to make a record of any remarkable event. *Out of all nick*, past counting (1595). *Out on the nick*, out thieving, on the pinch (q.v.). *To nick with nay*, to deny (1350). *Nicks*: see Nix.

Nickel. A five-cent piece.

Nicker. A dandy (q.v.).

Nickerers. A cant term for new shoes (*Jamieson*).

Nickeries. Nickeries are the same [as Nicknames] applied to actions and things, or *quid pro quo* (*Bee*).

Nickey. See Nikin and Old Nick.

Nick-nack. A trifle, toy, curio: also *knick-knack*: see Knack. *Nick-nackatory*, *nick-nackery*, and *nick-nacky* (1580).

Nickname. A name invented in derision, contempt, or reproach (*Grose*). As verb, to miscall in contempt, derision, or reproach.

Knick-ninny. A flat-catcher.

Nick-pot. A stealer of publican's pots (1602).

Nickum. A sharper; also a rooking ale-house or innkeeper, vintner, or any retailer (*B. E.*).

Nickumpoop. See Nincumpoop.

Niddicock. A fool (1587).

Niddipol. A fool (1583).

Nidget. See Nigit.

Niece. A priest's illegitimate daughter, or concubine: whence the expression, No more character than a priest's niece.

Niffnaffy. Fastidious, trifling (1785).

Nifty. Conspicuous, smart.

Nig. 1. The clippings of money: also *nig*, to clip money (1696). 2. A negro: abbreviation of nigger. 3. Gin: see Drinks. As verb, (1) to catch; (2) to revoke: at cards; also *re-nig*.

Nigger. *Nigger in the fence*, an underhand design, motive, or purpose.

Nigger-baby. A monster projectile: as used at the siege of Charleston: attributed to General Hardie of the Confederate Army: see Swamp Angel.

Nigger-driving. Exhausting with work.

Nigger-luck. Very good fortune.

Nigger-spit. The half-candied lumps in cane sugar.

Niggle (or Nig). 1. To trifle: also *niggling*, trifling (*Grose*) (1632). 2. To attend excessively to detail; to work on a small scale, with a small brush, to a small purpose.

Night. Combinations are *night-bird* (q.v.); *night-cap* (q.v.); *night-fossicker* (Australian mining), a nocturnal thief of quartz or dust: whence *night-fossicking*; *night-gear* (or *piece*), a bedfellow, male or female; *night-hawk* (*hunter*, *snap*, or *trader*), night-bird (q.v.); *night-house*, (1) a public-house licensed to open at night, (2) a brothel; *night-hunter*, (1) a poacher, (2) a night-bird (q.v.); *night-jury*, a band of night brawlers: *night-magistrate*, (1) the head of a watch-house, whence (2) a constable; *night-man*, an emptier of cesspools: see Gold-finder; *night-rale* (or *rail*), (1) night apparel, (2) a combing-cloth; *night-shade*, night-bird (q.v.); *night-sneaker*, a wanton; *night-walker* night-bird (q.v.), whence *night-walking*, prowling at night for robbery, prostitution, etc. (1598). *To make a night of it*, to spend the night in dissipation.

Night-and-day. The play.

Night-bird (cap, hawk, hunter, poacher, snap, trader, or walker). 1. A thief working by night (1544). 2. A harlot: also *night-piece* (or *shade*) (1612). 3. A bully, street brawler: also (in bands), *night-jury* (1664). 4. A bellman, watchman.

Night-cap. 1. The last drink, a dodger (q.v.) (1840). 2. The cap pulled over the face before execution: see Horse's night-cap (1681). 3. See Night-bird. 4. A wife: see Dutch.

Nightingale. 1. A soldier who, as the term is, sings out at the halberts: it is a point of honour in some regiments among the grenadiers never to cry out, or become nightingales, whilst under the discipline of the cat of nine tails; to avoid which they chew a bullet (*Grose*). 2. A prostitute. 3. See Spithead, Cambridgeshire, and Arcadian nightingale.

Night-liner. A night-walking cab: cf. Owl-train.

Nighty (or **nightie**). A night-dress.

Nigit (or **Nidget**). A fool (1623).

Nigler (or **Niggler**). 1. A clipper of money, sweater (q.v.): see Nig (1696). 2. One who is clever and dexterous.

Nihil-ad-rem (Winchester College). Vague, unconscious: e.g. He sported nihil-ad-rem duck.

Nikin. A fool.

Nil. Half, half profits, etc.

Nilly-willy. *Nill ye, will ye*, whether you will or not: a familiar version of the Latin, nolens-volens: now generally written *willy-nilly*.

Nim. To seize, take, steal, nab (q.v.). [A. S., *niman*, to take]. Whence *nimmer*, a thief, and *nimming*, theft, robbery (1350).

Nimble. Easy-got, quickly turned over: of money: cf. Ninepence. *Nimble as a cat on a hot bake-stone* (or *hot bricks*), as nimble as may be, in a hurry to get away, alert, on the *qui vive*: also *as nimble as an eel in a sandbag, as a new-gelt dog, as a bee in a tar-barrel, as a cow in a cage*, or *as ninepence* (*Ray*, 1676).

Nimenog. A fool: also *nigmenog* (1696).

Nimgimmer. A doctor, surgeon, apothecary (1696).

Nimrod. A hunting-man, sportsman (1599).

Nimshi. A nincompoop, conceited fellow.

Nimshod. A cat.

Nincompoop (or **Nickumpoop**). An impotent ass (1696).

Nine. *Nine tailors make a man*: see Ninth.

Nine-bob-square. Out of shape.

Nine corns. A pipeful of tobacco.

Nine-eyed. Observant (1694).

Ninepence. *Neat* (*nice*, or *right*) *as ninepence*, all right, correct to a nicety: cf. alliterative proverb, A nimble ninepence is better than a slow shilling (1850).

Ninepins. Life in general.

Nines. *Up to the nines*, to perfection (1780).

Nine-shillings. Nonchalance.

Nine-spot. *Only a nine-spot*, indifferent; of small account: the nine at cards rarely counts for a trick.

Nine-tail Bruiser (or **Mouser**). The cat-o'-nine-tails.

Nineways. *To look nine ways* (or *nine ways for Sundays*), to squint (1542).

Nine Winks. A short nap: cf. Forty winks.

Ningle. See Ingle.

Ning-nang. A worthless thoroughbred.

Ninny. 1. A fool: also *ninny-hammer*, and hence *ninny-hammering* foolishness (1696). 2. A whining beggar (1696).

Ninny-broth. Coffee (1696).

Ninth. *Ninth* (or *tenth*) *part of a man*, a tailor. [From the proverb Nine tailors make a man: whence Queen Elizabeth's traditional address to a deputation of eighteen tailors:—God save you, gentlemen both.]

Nip. 1. A pinch. 2. A thief: specifically a cut-purse (1592). 3. (*a*) A small quantity of spirits; as a nip of whisky—generally half a glass: also a small bit of anything, as much as is nipped or broken off between the finger and thumb; hence (*b*) a sip, a small drink, go (q.v.): also *Nipper*. 4. A hit, taunt (1556). As verb, (1) to pinch, to press between the fingers and thumb without the nails, or with any broad instrument like a pair of tongs as to squeeze between edged instruments or pincers (*B. E.*); (2) to steal: specifically, to cut a purse (1567); (3) to go, *to nip along*, to move with speed; *to nip in*, to slip in; (4) to take a dram; (5) see Nip-cheese and

Nip-louse; (6) to taunt, wring (1599); (7) to arrest, pinch (q.v.) (1851). *Nip and tuck*, touch and go, neck and neck, equality or thereabouts: also *nip and tack*, *nip and chuck*, etc. *To nip in the bud*, of an early blast or blight of fruit; also to crush anything at the beginning (*B. E.*).

Nip-cheese. 1. A miser: also *nip squeeze* and *nip-farthing* (*Grose*). 2. A purser.

Nip-louse. A tailor: also *prick-louse*.

Nip-lug. A teacher, schoolmaster. *At nip-lug*, at loggerheads, on the point of collision.

Nippent. Impudent.

Nipper. 1. A lad (1851). 2. A cut-purse. [So called by one Wotton who, in the year 1585, kept an academy for the education and perfection of pick-pockets and cut-purses; his school was near Billingsgate, London: as, in the dress of ancient times, many people wore their purses at their girdles, cutting them was a branch of the light fingered art, which is now lost though the name remains . . . there was a school house set up to learn young boys to cut purses: two devices were hung up, one was a pocket, and another was a purse, the pocket had in it certain counters, and was hung about with hawk's bells, and over the top did hang a little sacring bell; the purse had silver in it, and he that could take out a counter, without noise of any of the bells, was adjudged a judicial nipper, according to their terms of art; a foyster was a pickpocket; a nypper was a pick-purse, or cut purse.—*Grose.*] 3. The serving lad attached to a gang of navvies, to fetch water and carry tools. 4. In pl., handcuffs or shackles. 5. In pl., a burglar's instrument used from the outside on a key: also *American tweezers*. 6. (Marlborough School). A boy or cad. As verb, to arrest, catch: see Nab, and Nip (1823).

Nipperkin. 1. A small measure. half a pint of wine, and but half a quartern of brandy, strong waters, etc. (*B. E.*). 2. A stone jug.

Nipping. Sharp, cutting (1596).

Nipping Christian. A cut-purse: see Nipper.

Nipping-jig. Hanging.

Nippitate. Strong drink, especially ale: also *Nippitato* and *Nippitatum* (1575).

Nipps. Shears for clipping money (1696).

Nippy. Mean, stingy, curt, snappish.

Nipshot. *To play nipshot*, to fail, decamp (1775).

Nique. Contemptuous indifference.

Nisey. See Nizey.

Nit. 1. Wine that is brisk, and poured quick into a glass (*B. E.*). 2. A wanton. *Nits will become lice*, of small matters that become important.

Nit-squeezer. A hair-dresser.

Nix (or **Nicks**). 1. Nothing: also *nix my doll*, and (American), *nixy* and *nixy-cully* (1789). 2. A term used in the railway mail service to denote matter of domestic origin, chiefly of the second and first class, which is unmailable because addressed to places which are not post-offices, or to States, etc., in which there is no such post-office as that indicated in the address. As intj., a warning that some one in authority is at hand. *Nix my doll!* Never mind! [Popularised by Ainsworth's song in *Rookwood*].

Niz-priz. A writ of nisi-prius.

Nizzie. 1. A fool: also *nikin*. 2. A coxcomb (1696).

No. *No battle*, no good, not worth while. *No chicken*, getting on in years: usually of women. *No end*, extremely, a great many: a general intensive. *No fear*: see Fear. *No flies*, artful, designing: also N.F. *No fool*, an ironical intensive. *No go*, no use, impossible: Fr., *zut!* and *ça ne mord pas* (1830). *No kid*, no mistake. *No moss*, no animosity. *No name, no pull*, if I name no names there can be no libel, if I do not mention his name he cannot take offence, unless he likes to apply the remarks to himself. *No odds*, no matter, of no consequence. *No repairs*: see Repairs.

Noah's Ark. 1. A long, closely-buttoned overcoat: a coinage of *Punch*: from a similarity to the wooden figures in a toy ark. 2. Certain clouds elliptically parted, considered a sign of fine weather after rain. 3. A lark (q.v.).

Noakes. See John o' Noakes.

Nob. 1. The head: see Crumpet (1696). 2. A person of rank or position. *To come the nob,* to put on airs (1703). 3. (Oxford University). A fellow of a college. 4. A knobstick (q.v.). 5. The game of prick - (or cheat -) the - garter (1754). 6. A sovereign, 20s.: see Rhino. As verb, (1) to strike, get home a blow (specifically on the head): cf. Nobber; (2) to collect money, take round the hat: Fr., *faire la manche* (1851). *Nob in the fur trade,* a judge (1838). *To nob it,* to act with such prudence and knowledge of the world, as to prosper and become independent, without any labour or bodily exertion; this is termed nobbing it, or fighting nob work; to effect any purpose or obtain anything by means of good judgment and sagacity, is called nobbing it for such a thing (*Vaux*). *One for his nob,* (1) a blow on the head; (2) a point in cribbage for holding the knave of trumps: cf. Two for his heels. *To pitch the nob*: see Prick the garter.

Nob-a-nob. Hob-nob (q.v.): probably a corruption.

Nobba. Nine [Italian, *Nove*; Spanish, *Nova*; the *b* and *v* being interchangeable, as in *sabe* and *savvey*].

Nobber. 1. A blow on the head. 2. A financial agent, the man who goes round with the plate or box: great care is always bestowed upon the selection of the nobber; he is really the most important member of the troupe, and must be an artist of the first water if he is to get any money: only a nobber can know the reluctant way in which the public doles out its coppers, and its refusal to donate silver on any terms.

Nobbily. Showily, smartly: cf. Nobby.

Nobbing. 1. The administration of blows on the head. 2. In pl., money collected: see Nobber.

Nobbing - cheat. See Nubbing-cheat.

Nobbing-slum. The bag for collecting money: see Nobber.

Nobble. 1. To strike on the head, stun. 2. Secretly to frustrate, spoil, lame, dose, drug, or otherwise prevent the horse from doing his level best, across hurdles, or in a steeple-chase. 3. To circumvent, cheat, do (q.v.), square (q.v.). 4. To appropriate, catch, nab (q.v.).

Nobbler. 1. A blow on the head. 2. A finishing stroke, settler (q.v.). 3. The gaff (that kills): rod-fishing. 4. A confederate of thimble-riggers and card - sharpers, bonnet (q.v.), bearer up (q.v.): also *nob - pitcher.* [The nobbler plays as if a stranger to the rig (q.v.), to draw unsuspecting persons into play.] 5. A pettifogging lawyer. 6. A drink, go (q.v.); specifically of spirits (1759).

Nobble-tree. The head, nob (q.v.).

Nobby. A fool. As adj., (1) smart; elegant, fashionable: also *nobbish, nobbily,* and *nabby* (1808).

Noble. *To bring a noble to ninepence,* to decline in fortune (1696). See Beggar's noble.

Noble Art. Pugilism, boxing.

Nob-pitcher. A sharper who attends at fairs, races, to take in the flats at prick-in-the-garter, cups and balls, and similar artifices.

Nobs-houses. The Houses of Parliament.

Nob's-nob. King George IV.

Nob-stick. See Knobstick.

Nod-thatch. The hair.

Nob-thatcher. 1. A wig-maker, strummel - faker (q.v.). 2. A straw-bonnet-maker.

Nob work. Mental occupation.

Nocky. A simpleton, dullard: also *nocky-boy,* and as adj.

Nocturne. A prostitute, night-piece (q.v.).

Nod. To be stupid, dull. *The Land of Nod,* sleep: cf. The Land of Nod on the East of the Jordon (q.v.), Gen. iv. 16 (1608). *A nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse,* said of a covert hint—an allusion not put into plain words (1831). *On the nod,* on credit.

Nodcock. A simpleton.

Noddipol. See Noddy.

Noddle. The head: see Crumpet (1593).

Noddle-case. A wig.

Noddy (Nod, Noddie - Noddipole, Noddy-pole, Noddy-pate, or Noddy-peake). 1. A simpleton: also *Tom Noddy* (1540). 2. A kind of buggy or one-horse chaise, with a seat before it for a driver, used in and about Dublin in the manner of a hackney coach (*Grose*). As adj., simple, foolish (1598). *Knave noddy,* the knave of trumps.

Noddy - headed. 1. Witless. 2. Drunk: see Screwed.

Nodgecock. A simpleton (1566).

Noffgur. A prostitute.

Nog. See Noggin.

Noggin (Nog, or Knoggin). 1. A small measure of spirits, go (q.v.) (1696). 2. A mug (1635). 3. The head: see Crumpet.

Noggy. Intoxicated: see Screwed.

No-how. 1. Upset, out of sorts. 2. Out of countenance (1780).

Noise. A band of musicians (1598). *To make a noise at one*, to scold. *To noise one*, to tell tales of, split (q.v.).

Noisy-dog-racket. Stealing brass knockers from doors (*Grose*).

Nokes. 1. A ninny or fool. 2. John-a-Nokes and Tom-a-Stiles, two fictitious names commonly used in law proceedings.

Noli-me-tangere. 1. The itch, any disgusting contagious disease: cf. Scotch fiddle (1626). 2. A repellent person, attitude, or occurrence. As adj., repellent, forbidding. [Lat., touch-me-not.] (1591).

Noll (or Nole). 1. The head: see Crumpet (1400). 2. A simpleton (1587). *Old Noll*, 'the late Vsurper, Cromwell' (*B. E.*).

No-man's-land. Waste ground, an unsettled acreage, a barren or broken stretch between two provinces or kingdoms: cf. Tom Tiddler's ground.

Nominate. See Poison.

Nommus. See Nammous.

Non-com. A non-commissioned officer.

Non-con. A nonconformist.

Non-est-inventus. Absent.

Non-licet (Winchester College). Illegal, unbefitting a Wykehamist: e.g. Don't sport non-licet notions.

Nonny (Nonino, or Hey, Nonny, Nonny). 1. A refrain once used to cover indelicate allusions (1593). 2. A simpleton.

Nonplust. At the end of one's tether: also *at point nonplus* (1708).

Nonsense. 1. Money: see Rhino. 2. Melting butter in a wig; also, fastening the door with a boiled carrot. (*Grose*). 3. (Eton College). A small division of the Third Form.

Nonsuch. One that is unequalled; frequently applied ironically.

Nonjuror. Clergymen and others (officers in the army, navy, etc.), that refused to take the oaths to King William and Queen Mary, and were turned out of their livings and employments (*B. E.*).

Noodle. A simpleton: also *Billy noodle*. *The house of noodles*, the House of Lords. As verb, to fool.

Noodledom. The world of fools.

Nookery. A snug corner, place of hiding (1857).

Noom. The moon, Oliver (q.v.).

Noose (or Nooze). 1. To hang (1676). 2. To marry. *Noosing*, a wedding; *noose* (or *marriage-noose*), the nuptial knot (1617).

Nope. A blow.

Nope. No.

Noras. Great Northern Railway Deferred Ordinary Stock.

Norfolk-capon. A red herring: see Glasgow Magistrate.

Norfolk-dumpling. A Norfolk man.

Norfolk Howard. 1. A bug. 2. In pl., The Norfolk Regiment, formerly the 9th Foot.

Norfolk-nog. A kind of strong ale (1726).

Nor-loch Trout. A joint or leg of mutton, ordered for a club of citizens who used to meet in one of the *closes* leading down to the North Loch. The invitation was given in these terms: Will ye gang and eat a Nor' loch trout? The reason of the name is obvious. This was the only species of fish which the North Loch, on which the shambles were situated, could supply (*Jamieson*).

Norp. To put in phrases that will fetch the gallery, pile it up (q.v.).

North. 1. Strong, good, well fortified: usually of grog. *Due north*, neat; *too far north*, drunk. 2. Intelligent, fly (q.v.), up to snuff (q.v.): cf. Fr., *perdre le nord*, to be confused.

Northallertons. Spurs.

North Country Compliment. A gift not wanted by the giver nor valued by the receiver.

North-easter. A New England sixpence or shilling, *temp.* Charles I. [On one side were the letters N.E.]

Northumberland. *Lord Northumberland's arms*, a black eye.

Norway Neckcloth. The pillory: usually made of Norway fir.

Norwicher. An unfair drinker: i.e. a man who, taking first pull at a tankard, does not draw breath till he has pretty well emptied the pot.

Nose. 1. An informer: Fr., *riflette, tante, soulasse*, and *sondeur* (1789). 2.

A paid spy, shadow (q.v.), nark (q.v.): also *noser* (1819). As verb, (1) to smell, scent; (2) to pry, suspect, discover (1651); (3) to inform (1821); (4) to bluster, look big; (5) to tell of anything he has said or done with a view to injure him, or to benefit yourself. Many colloquialisms are here conveniently grouped: e.g. *to put one's nose out of joint*, to supplant; *to wipe one's nose*, (1) to cozen; (2) to affront; and (3) in medicine, to discover an error in diagnosis and alter treatment (the mistaken practitioner is said to have his nose wiped); *to put one's nose in the manger*, to eat; *to follow one's nose*, to go straight forward; *to lead by the nose*, to govern; *to pay through the nose*, to pay extravagantly; *to put one's nose into anything*, to meddle; *to turn up one's nose*, to disdain; *to cast in* (or *to play with*) *one's nose*, to twit, or to ridicule; *to have one's nose on the grindstone*, to be held at a disadvantage; *to be bored through the nose*, to be cheated; *in spite of your nose*, in your teeth; *to bite* (or *to cut off*) *one's nose to spite one's face*, to be revenged to one's own detriment; *to tell* (or *to count*) *noses*, to appeal to numbers; *to make a person's nose swell*, to make jealous; *to measure noses*, to meet; *to take pepper in the nose*, (1) to take offence; and (2) to mistrust; *as plain as the nose on one's face*, beyond argument; *a good nose*, a smell-feast; *to make a bridge of someone's nose*, to pass in drinking, also to supersede; *to hold up one's nose*, to be proud; *a nose of wax*, a complaisant or accommodating disposition; *candles* (or *dewdrops*) *in the nose*, snots; *on the nose*, on the look-out; *a nose to light candles at*, a drunkard's nose, a poop-lantern; *to see the nose cheese first*, to refuse contemptuously; *my nose itches!* a jocular invitation to kiss, the retort being, I knew I was going to sneeze, be cursed, or kissed by a fool.

Nose-and-chin. A penny, win (q.v.).

Nosebag. 1. A sea-side visitor who carries his own victuals with him. 2. A veil. 3. A bag of provender fastened to a horse's head: whence, a hand-bag. *To put on the nose bag*, to eat hurriedly or whilst at work.

Nosegent. A nun (1573).

Nose'm. Tobacoo, fogus (q.v.).

Nosender (Noser, or Nosegay). A blow on the nose (1823).

Noser - my - Knacker. Tobacco, fogus (q.v.).

Nose-warmer. A short pipe: Fr., *brûle-gueule*.

Nose-watch. See Watch (1573).

Nose-wipe. A handkerchief: see Fogle.

Nos-rap. A parson, devil-dodger (q.v.).

Nostrum. A medicine prepared by particular persons only, a quack medicine (*Grose*).

Not. See Baker, Care, Carrot, Curse, Dam, Devil, Feather, Fig, Fit, Fly, Nalf-bad, In it, Joe, (or Joseph), Long shot (or Sight), Much, Shower, Rap, To-day, Worth, Yesterday.

Notch. 1. To score. 2. To denote an advantage: e.g. Notch me another.

Note. 1. A bon-bon. 2. A singer.

Noter (Harrow School). A note-book.

Note-shaver. A usurer, a usurious compositor: specifically a wild-cat bank (q.v.), purchasing notes of hand at excessive rates of discount: obsolete since the regulation of banks by Congress.

Nothing. See Dance, Neck, and Say.

Notice to quit. When a person is in danger of dying from bad health, it is said, he has received a notice to quit.

Notion (Winchester College). 1. A word, usage, or phrase peculiar to Winchester College). 2. A trifle, nick-nack: specifically (in pl.), wares in general (1719).

Notional. Imaginative, whimsical, sentimental: also *notionate* (1691).

Nottamizer. A dissecting surgeon. (1828).

Nottingham Lamb. See Lamb.

Nous. Sense, shrewdness. [From the Greek *nous*]. (1678).

Nous-box. The head, knowledge-box: see Crumpet.

Nova. Nine.

Nowhere. Not in the reckoning, so far behind as not to be. [A reminiscence of that 'Eclipse first, and the rest nowhere,' which described the victory of a famous horse].

Nozzle. The nose: see Conk. As verb, (1) to shrink: e.g. *to nozzle the bottoms*, to shrink the fronts of trousers; (2) to pawn.

Nth (or **Nth plus one**). To the utmost degree. Thus *Cut to the Nth* means wholly unnoticed by a friend. The expression is taken from the index of a mathematical formula, where *n* stands for any number, and *n plus* 1 more than any number.

Nub. 1. The neck. 2. A husband. As verb, to hang: see Ladder (1712).

Nubbin. A remnant, small remainder.

Nubbing. Hanging.

Nubbing-cheat (or **Nubbling-chit**). The gallows, whence *nubbing*, a hanging; *nubbing-cove*, the hangman; and *nubbing-ken*, the Sessions House (1696). English synonyms: Abraham's balsam (in botany, a species of willow), Beilby's ballroom, chates (chattes or chats), City stage, (formerly in front of Newgate), crap, deadly never-green, derrick, forks, government sign-post, hanging-cheat, horse foaled by an acorn, hotel door-posts, the ladder, leafless tree, mare with three legs, Moll Blood (old Scots'), morning-drop, prop (Punch and Judy), the queer-'em (queer-'un, queer-'um), scrag, scrag-squeezer, sheriff's picture-frame, squeezer, stalk (Punch and Judy), the stifler, the swing, three-legged mare, three trees, topping cheat, Tower-hill vinegar (the swordsman's block), tree that bears fruit all they ear round, tree with three corners, treyning-cheat, triple-tree, Tuck'em Fair, Tyburn cross, widow, wooden-legged mare.

Nuddikin (or **Noddleken**). The head.

Nuff. Enough. *To have had one's nuff*, to be elevated or drunk: cf. N. C.

Nug. To fondle, grubble. Whence *my nug*, my dear: a general endearment.

Nugget. In pl., money: see Rhino.

Nuggety. Thick-built, cobby, stocky.

Nugging-dress. A loose kind of dress.

Nugging-house. A brothel.

'Nuity. Go-aheaditiveness (q.v.).

Null. To beat.

Null-gropers. Persons who sweep the streets, in search of old iron, nails, etc. (*Grose*).

Nulling-cove. A pugilist.

Nulli Secundus Club. The Coldstream Guards: also known as The Coldstreamers.

Numans. Newgate (1610).

Number. See Mess. *To consult the book of numbers*, to call for a division, to put a matter to the vote (*Grose*). *Number* 9, the Fleet Prison; this was No. 9 Fleet Market. *Number One*, (1) self; *to take care of number one*, to look after one's own interests; (2) the cat-o'-nine-tails. *Number six*: see Newgate knocker. *Number two*, the birch.

Numps. A dolt, fool (1614).

Nums (or **Numms**). A clean collar on a dirty shirt. As adj., sham.

Numskull. A simpleton (1712).

Numskulled. Foolish, silly.

Nun. A prostitute: cf. Abbess: also *Covent garden nun*. *Nun's flesh*, a cold temperament (1608).

Nunky (**Nunks**, or **Nuncle**). An uncle [Nuncle, mine uncle: once the customary address of the licensed fool to his superiors] (1599).

Nunnery. A brothel.

Nunquam. 'Nunquam is he that when his Maister sendeth him on his errand he wil not come againe of an hour or two' (*Frat. Vacabondes*).

Nunyare. Food, meals.

Nup (or **Nupson**). A fool (1580).

Nuppence. Nothing: from no pence, on the model of tuppence, 2d.

Nuptiate. To marry, get hitched (q.v.).

Nuremburg-egg. An early kind of watch, oval in shape: invented, c. 1500, in Nuremburg.

Nurly. Ill-tempered, cross-grained: from gnarly.

Nurse. 1. An old man's maid. 2. An able first lieutenant, who in former times had charge of a young boy-captain of interest, but possessing no knowledge for command. 3. See Wet-nurse. As verb, (1) to cozen (*Grose*); (2) to keep the three balls close in play so as to score successive cannons: hence, nursery-business (q.v.); (3) to cheat an opposition 'bus of passengers by driving close in front or behind; two vehicles are generally employed to nurse the victim (1858). *To be at nurse*, to be in the hands of trustees (*Grose*).

Nursery. A race for two-year-olds; almost always a handicap: also as adj.

Nursery-business (or **cannon**). Playing the three balls close together and so scoring successive cannons.

Nurse's-vail. A nurse's petticoats when they are wet with urine.

Nush. The mouth: see Potato-trap.

Nut. 1. The head: hence, intelligence, brains: see Crumpet (1858). 2. The core of fat in a leg of mutton, the pope's eye (q.v.) (1611). 3. A harum-scarum ass. 4. In pl., small round coals. 5. In pl., a delightful practice or experience (1678). 6. In pl., Barcelona Tramway Shares. 7. A drink, go (q.v.): see Drinks. As verb, (1) to fondle, ogle, spoon (q.v.); (2) to strike on the head. *To be nuts* (or *dead nuts*) *on*, (1) to be very much pleased or gratified with any object, adventure, or overture; so a person who conceives a strong inclination for another of the opposite sex, is said to be quite nutty, or nuts upon him or her (*Vaux*); (2) to be very skilful or dexterous; (3) to be particular, to detest. *To crack a nut*, in country gentlemen's houses (in Scotland), in the olden time, when a fresh guest arrived he was met by the laird, who made him crack a nut—that is, drink a silver-mounted cocoa-nut shell full of claret. *The Nut*, the Keppel's Head, at Portsmouth, known to all her Majesty's navy as the Nut. *A nut to crack*, a problem to solve, puzzle to explain, difficulty to overcome (1843). *Off one's nut*, (1) crazy; (2) drunk: see Screwed.

Nut-cracker. 1. The head. 2. A sharp blow on it. 3. In pl., the fists. 4. In pl., the pillory. 5. In pl., a curving nose and protruding chin. 6. The teeth: see Grinders. 7. The Third Foot: see Buff Howards.

Nut-hook. A term of contempt.

Nutmegs. *Wooden nutmegs*, when made of wood, as were those immortalised by Sam Slick, have become so familiar to the public mind that they have passed into a slang term for any cunning deception: not only is Connecticut called the Nutmeg State—although a factious native says the true reason is because you will have to look for a grater—but in the press and in Congress, Wooden Nutmegs have to answer for forged telegrams, political tricks, and falsified election-returns.

Nutmeg-state. Connecticut.

Nutshell. *In a nutshell*, in small compass, condensed, boiled down (1622).

Nutted. Deceived by a false friend.

Nutty. 1. Sweet-on, amorous, fascinating (1821). 2. Fruitful of details, spicy (q.v.). 3. Smart, doggy (q.v.), swagger (q.v.), nobby (q.v.), nice (q.v.) (1823).

Nux. The object in view, the plant (q.v.), the lay (q.v.).

Nymph of darkness (or **the pavement**). A prostitute.

Nyp. See Nip.

Oaf. 1. A loutish simpleton. *Oafdom*, the world of louts; *oafish*, stupid (1621). 2. A wiseacre (1696).

Oak. 1. A man of substance and credit (1696). 2. An outer door. *To sport one's oak*, to be not at home: indicated by closing the outer door (*Grose*). As adj., strong, rich, in good repute. *Felling of oaks*, sea-sickness (1608).

Oaken-towel. A cudgel, Plymouth cloak (q.v.). *To rub down with an oaken towel*, to thrash.

Oar. 1. A busybody: hence, *to put* (or *shove*) *one's oar in*, to interfere, meddle officiously (*Grose*). (1596). 2. (1) In pl., a waterman; i.e. oars (two men) as opposed to sculls, (q.v.) one man); and (2) an oarsman (1611). *First-oars*, a favourite, a person or thing holding the first or highest place (1774). *To lie* (or *rest*) *on one's oars*, to rest, take things easy.

Oat. An atom, particle: e.g. I've not an oat, I'm penniless. *Wild oats*, a rake, debauchee: hence, *to sow one's wild oats*, to indulge; *to have sown one's wild oats*, to have reformed (1570). *Feed of oats*, (1) A whip, (2) a beating. *To earn a gallon of oats*, of horses: to fall on the back rolling from one side to the other. *To feel one's oats*, to get bumptious: cf. Beans.

Oath. *To take an oath*, to drink, liquor up (q.v.). *Highgate oath*, a jocose asseveration which travellers towards London were required to take at a certain tavern at Highgate: they were obliged to swear that they would not prefer small beer before strong, unless indeed they liked the small better; never to kiss the maid if they could kiss the mistress, unless the maid was prettier; with other statements of a similar kind.

Oatmeal. A roystering profligate: see Roaring boy (1656). *All the world is not oatmeal*, things are not what they seem, All is not gold that glitters, cf. Beer and skittles (1542).

Oats-and-barley. Charley.

Oats-and-chaff. A footpath.

Oat-stealer. An ostler.

Ob (Winchester College). A contraction of *obit.*

Obadiah. A Quaker.

Ob-and-soller. A scholastic disputant. [From Objection and Solution used in the margin of books.] (1638).

O-be-easy. *To sing O be easy*, to appear contented when one has cause to complain.

O-be-joyful. Good liquor, brandy. *O-be-joyful works*, a drinking-shop. *To make one sing O be joyful on* (or *with*) *the other side of the mouth*, to make one cry.

Obeum (The) (University). The name for a water-closet building at Cambridge. [Attributed by the Undergraduates to the energy of O(scar) B(rowning)].

Obfuscated. Drunk: see Screwed: also *obfuscation* (1861).

Obit. An obituary notice.

Object. 1. A laughing- (or gazing-) stock. *Little object* (of children), a half-playful, half-angry endearment. 2. A sweetheart (i.e. the object of one's affections) (1824).

Obiquitous. Innocence of right and wrong: from *oblivious* and *obliquity*.

Obscute. Under-handed, crooked.

Observationist. One who looks out tempting objects for a skilful thief to steal: generally pedlars, hawkers, etc.

Obstropulous. A corruption of obstreperous (1748).

Occabot. Tobacco; *tib fo occabot*, bit of tobacco.

Occasion. *To improve the occasion*, to make the most of a chance (1860).

Occupy. To wear.

Ocean. In pl., a very large quantity: e.g. oceans of drink, of coin, of notices, and the like.

Ocean-greyhound. A swift steamer: specifically one running between England and America: also *Atlantic greyhound*. Mr. T. Dykes (*Glasgow Mail*, 28 May 1900), says that in 1882 three great shipbuilding yards—Barrow, Dalmuir, and Fairfield—had each on hand a new steamer that was to beat the record, at that time held by the Arizona. He was commissioned by Mr. Gordon Bennett to write an article on the subject, and, as an old coursing correspondent, was called upon to name the winner. He interviewed men best qualified to give an opinion, amongst others Mr. G. L. Watson, who plumped for the Fairfield boat as likely to prove the greyhound of the Atlantic. The Alaska, therefore, was named the Greyhound of the Atlantic before she was launched.

Ochive. A knife.

Ochre. Money: specifically gold: see Rhino.

O'clock. *To know what's o'clock*, to be alert, up to the time of day: see Know. *Like one o'clock*, quickly, readily, in a jiffy (q.v.): see Like.

O Criminy. See Crimes.

October. 1. The best ale: spec. ale or cider brewed in October. 2. Blood.

Odd. Strange, peculiar, difficult (1602).

Odd-come-shortly. Some day: also *odd-come-short*, odds and ends, fragments.

Odd Fish. An eccentric: see Queer Card (1771).

Oddish. Drunk: see Screwed.

Oddity. A singularity (1813).

Odd Man out. A mode of tossing for drinks by three or more. Each spins a coin, and if two come up head and one tail, the tail or odd man is out, i.e. has not to pay. Should all three coins be alike they are skied again (1840).

Odds. The probabilities for or against; the chance of something occurring; that which justifies the attributing of superiority to one of two or more persons or things: specifically, in betting, the excess of the amount of a bet made by one party over that of another: as the odds against the favourite were 3 to 1 (1591). *What's the odds?* What does it matter: an intensive of recklessness and good-fellowship (1840).

Odling. Cheating (1599).

Odno. No do. *Riding on the odno*, travelling by rail without payment.

Odour. Repute: as good or bad odour, the odour of sanctity, etc. (1853).

Off. The field of the wicket-keeper (1856). As adv., (1) out-of-date: originally waiters: e.g. Chops is hoff, there are no more chops to-day; (2) stale, in bad condition: e.g. smells a little bit off, don't it? *To be off*, to depart, run away. *Off bat* (Winchester College), the station of one of the field in a cricket match, Point. *Off the horn*, said of very hard steak. *Off the hinge*, out of work (1853). Also see Base, Bat, Chump, Cocoanut, Colour, Dot, Feed, Head, Hook, Kadoova, Nut, Onion, Reel, Rocker, Saucer, Song, Spot.

Off-chance. A doubtful hazard.

Office. A hint, signal, or private intimation, from one person to another; this is termed officeing him, or giving him the office; to take the office, is to understand and profit by the hint given: Fr., *donner un tuyau*. As verb, to give notice or information (1819). *Cook's office*, the galley. *Jack in office*: see Jack.

Office-sneak. A stealer of office overcoats and umbrellas.

Offish. Distant (1842).

Off-ox. An unmanageable, cross-grained fellow.

Ogging ot Tekram. Going to market.

Ogle. 1. In pl., the eyes: also *oglers*. Hence *queer-ogled*, squinting; *rum ogles*, bright or piercing eyes (1696). 2. An ocular invitation or consent, side glance, or amorous look: whence *ogling*, an amorous look (1704). As verb, (1) to look amorously, make sheep's eyes (q.v.) (1696); (2) to examine, consider (1836); (3) to look (1821).

Ogler. 1. See Ogle. 2. One who ogles (q.v.) (1702).

Oh. See After you, Dummy, Jupiter, Moses, My, Swallow.

Oil. Used in humorous or sarcastic combination: e.g. *oil of angels*, a gift or bribe (in allusion to the coin), *oil of barley*, beer; *oil of baston* (*birch, gladness, hazel, holly, rope, stirrup, strappem*, or *whip*), a beating; *oil of palms* or *palm-oil*), a bribe; *oil of tongue*, flattery (1592). As verb, to flatter, bribe (1616). *To strike oil* (or *ile*), to meet with a stroke of good luck, be successful. [From the financial advantage accruing from the discovery of the Pennsylvanian and other mineral oil springs.] *To oil the wig*, to make tipsy: see Screwed. *To oil the knocker*, to fee the porter: Fr., *graisser le marteau*.

Oiner. A cad.

Ointment. 1. Butter, cart-grease (q.v.). 2. Money: see Rhino: from the 13th century *Fabliau, De la Vieille qui Oint la Palme au Chevalier*.

O. K. General Jackson, better known . . . as *Old Hickory*, was not much at home in the art of spelling, and his friend and admirer, Major Jack Downing, found therefore no difficulty in convincing the readers of his Letters, that the President employed the letters O.K. as an endorsement of applications for office, and other papers. They were intended to stand for All Correct, which the old gentleman preferred writing *Oll Korrect*. As verb, to signify that all is right.

Old. Money: see Rhino. As adj., 1. crafty, cunning, experienced; 2. great, famous, grand: once a common intensitive; now only in combination with high, good, gay (1590). 3. Old, ugly. 4. A general term of endearment or cordiality: e.g. Old chap, Old fellow, Old boy, Old hoss, Old man, Old gal (1598). 5. A general disparagement: as in Old bloke, Old buffer, Old cat, Old cock, Old codger, Old coon, Old crawler, Old curmudgeon, Old dog, Old file, Old fiz-gig, Old geezer, Old huddle and twang, Old image, Old pot-and-pan, Old shaver, Old square-toes, Old stager, Oldstick, Old stick-in-the-mud (1600). *As old as Charing Cross* (or *as Paul's*), of ripe age.

Old Agamemnons. The 69th Foot, now the 2nd Batt. of the Welsh Regiment: bestowed by Nelson at St. Vincent in 1769, when the regiment were serving as marines. Also The Ups and Downs.

Old and Bold. The Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment), formerly the 14th Foot. Also Calvert's Entire, The Powos, and The Fighting Brigade.

Old Bailey Underwriter. A petty forger.

Old Bendy. The devil.

Old Bird. 1. An experienced thief: also *Old hand.* 2. An expert: also *old hand* and *old dog*: hence *old dog at it,* expert.

Old Blazes. The devil.

Old Block. See Chip.

Old Bold. The 29th Foot, now the 1st Batt. Worcestershire Regiment. Also The Ever-Sworded 29th.

Old Bold Fifth. The Northumberland Fusiliers: formerly The 5th Foot. Also The Shiners, The Fighting Fifth, and Lord Wellington's Bodyguard.

Old Boots. *Like old boots,* a general and irrelevant comparison: see Like (1850).

Old Braggs. The 28th Foot, now the 1st Batt. Gloucestershire Regiment: from its Colonel's name, 1734-51. Also The Slashers.

Old Bucks. The Bedfordshire Regiment, formerly the 16th Foot. Also The Peacemakers and The Feather-beds.

Old Buffs. The Third Foot, now The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Also Nut-crackers and Resurrectionists.

Old-crow. A drink, dram. [In the United States old crow, a choice brand of Bourbon or corn whisky].

Old-dog. 1. A half-burnt plug of tobacco left in the bowl of a pipe. 2. A lingering antique. As adj., particularly good (1596).

Old Donah (or **Old woman**). A mother.

Old Doss. Bridewell.

Old Dozen. The Suffolk Regiment, formerly the 12th Foot.

Old Driver. The devil: see Skipper.

Old Ebony. *Blackwood's Magazine*: also Maga.

Old Eyes. The Grenadier Guards; also known as The Sand Bags, The Coalheavers, The Housemaids' Pets, and The Bermuda Exiles.

Old File. A miser; a skinflint (q.v.): also see Old.

Old Five and Threepennies. The Fifty-third Foot. [From its number and (formerly) the daily pay of an ensign]. Also Brickdusts.

Old Floorer. Death.

Old Fogs. The 87th Foot, now the Royal Irish Fusiliers. [From their battle-cry, *Fag-an-Bealach,* Clear the Way]. Also Blayney's Bloodhounds and The Rollickers.

Old Gentleman. 1. A card somewhat larger and thicker than the rest of the pack, and now in considerable use amongst the legs. 2. The devil (1727).

Old Glory. The United States' flag (1770-1844).

Old Gooseberry. The devil. *To play old gooseberry,* to play the devil.

Old gown. Smuggled tea.

Old Hand. See Old bird.

Old Harry. The devil: also *the lord Harry* (1687). 2. A composition used by vintners, when they bedevil their wines (*B. E.*). *To play old Harry,* to play the devil: see Play.

Old Harvey. The large boat (the launch) of a man-of-war.

Old (or **salt**) **Horse.** 1. Salt junk: Fr., *sous-pied,* and *tire-fiacre.* 2. An endearment: a familiar address.

Old Inniskillings. The 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons. Also The Skillingers.

Old Iron. Shore clothes. *To work up old iron,* to go ashore.

Old lady. A broad (q.v.). *The old lady of Threadneedle St.,* the Bank of England (1797).

Old Lag. See Lag.

Old Line State. Maryland. [From the old line regiments contributed to the Continental army in the War of the Revolution].

Old Man. 1. A full-grown male kangaroo. 2. A familiar mode of address. 3. A master, governor (q.v.), boss (q.v.). 4. A husband: cf. Old woman: Fr., *geniteur.* 5. The captain of a merchantman (1823). 6. The ridge between two sleepers in a feather bed. 7. A blanket used to wrap a young child in. 8. A father.

Old Man's Milk. Whisky: see Drinks. In Scotland a mixture of cream, eggs, sugar, and whisky.

Old Mr. Gory. A piece of gold (*B. E.*).

Old Mr. Grim. Death, Old Floorer (q.v.).

Old Nick. The devil: also *nickie* and *nickie-ben* (1662).

Old one (or **Old 'un**). 1. The devil. 2. A father (1836). 3. A horse more than three years old. 4. The pantaloon, fool's father (q.v.).

Old Pegg. Poor Yorkshire cheese, made of skimmed milk (*Grose*).

Old Pelt. An old pressman. [In allusion to the ink pelts formerly in use for distributing the ink].

Old Pod (or **Old Pot-and-pan**). 1. An old man, father. 2. A wife, a woman.

Old Poger. The devil.

Old Probabilities. The Superintendent of the United States' weather bureau: sometimes Old Prob.

Old Red-eye. Whisky: see **Drinks.**

Old Rip. See Rip.

Old Roger. The devil.

Old Salt. An experienced sailor.

Old Saucy Seventh. The 7th (The Queen's Own) Hussars: in Peninsula times. Also The Lily-white Seventh, Young Eyes, Old Strawboots, and Straws.

Old Scratch. The devil (1762).

Old Seven and Sixpennies. The 76th Foot, now the 2nd Batt. Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment): from its former number and the amount of a lieutenant's pay. Also The Immortals and The Pigs.

Old Shell. A sailor.

Old Shoe. A portent (or augury) of good fortune. *To wear* (or *ride in*) *another man's old shoes* (or *boots*), to marry another man's sweetheart or widow.

Old Soldier. A cigar end or old quid. *To come the old soldier*: see Come.

Old Song. A trifle, a nominal sum or price.

Old Split-foot. The devil (1848).

Old Stager. A person of experience, Old dog (q.v.).

Old Stick. 1. A disparagement: cf. Old. 2. A complimentary mode of address to an old man, signifying he is a capital fellow (*Halliwell*).

Old Stubborns. The Forty-fifth Foot, now The Sherwood Foresters.

Old Strawboots (or **Straws**). The 7th (The Queen's Own) Hussars: for substituting at Warbourg (1760) strawbands for worn-out boots. Also The Old Saucy Seventh and The Lily-White Seventh.

Old Timer. 1. A *laudator temporis acti*. 2. One who has grown old in a place or profession (1860).

Old Toast. 1. The devil: also Old toaster (1859). 2. A brisk old fellow (*Grose*).

Old Tom. Gin: see **White Satin** (1823).

Old Toughs. The One Hundred and Third Foot, now the 2nd Batt. Royal Dublin Fusiliers. [For long and arduous service in India].

Old Trot. See Trot.

Old 'un. See Old one.

Old Whale. A sailor.

Old Woman. 1. A prisoner who, unfit for physical hard work, is set to knitting stockings. 2. A man with the character and habits of a woman: also *old wife*. 3. A wife or mother: cf. Old man.

Olive-branches. Children. [In allusion to Psalm cxxviii. 4, in Book of Common Prayer] (1688).

Oliver. The moon, the sky-lantern. *Oliver whiddles* (or *is up*), the moon shines; *Oliver is in town*, the nights are moonlight (1781). *To give a Rowland for an Oliver*: see Rowland.

Oliver's Skull. A chamber-pot: see It.

Ollapod. An apothecary. [From George Coleman's comedy (1802) *The Poor Gentleman.*]

Olli compolli. The by-name of one of the principal rogues of the Canting Crew (*B. E.*).

Omee. A man: specifically, a master: also *omer* and *homee.*

Omnibus. A man of all-work, a handy man.

Omnium (Stock Exchange). The aggregate value of the different stocks in which a loan is funded.

Omnium Gatherum. A medley, Jack-of-all-trades (1576).

On. 1. No. 2. Tipsy: see Screwed. 3. Used for of (1637). 4. (Winchester College). The word given by the Præfect of Hall for the boys to start to or from Hills, or to Cathedral. When any person or thing of importance was known to be likely to meet the boys when on Hills, the word was passed that he, she, or it was on,—e.g. Ridsworth on, snobs on, badger on, etc. (*Mansfield*). 5. Carnally minded, concupiscent. *To be* (or *get*) *on*, (1) to make a bet: generally *to have a bit on*; (2) ready and willing, good at, fond of. *To try it on*: see Try. See also Back, Ballot, Bat, Batter, Beam-ends, Beer, Bend, Board, Bone, Boot-leg, Bounce, Box, Burst (or Bust), Cards, Chain, Cheap, Crook, Cross, Dead, Dead broke, Dead quiet, Dee, Fly, Forty-ninth, Fourth, Fuddle Grass, Ground-floor, Half-shell, Head, Hip, Hop, Ice, Job, Lay, Ledge, Loose, Make, Muddle, Nail, Nod, Nose, One's P's and Q's, Pounce, Prairie, Promotion, Quiet, Q.T., Ramble, Rampage, Rantan, Ready, Reerau, Road, Rails, Scent, Scoot, Scout, Sentry, Shallow, Sharp, Shelf, Shove, Shunt, Skyte, Slate, Sly, Snap, Spree, Spot, Square, Stairs, Straight, Stretch, String, Swing, Tailboard, Take, Tappy, Tiles, Time, Tick, Tramp, Toast, Top, Uppers, Velvet, Wallaby, Warpath, Win, etc.].

Once. *In once,* first time.

One. 1. A lie: see Whopper. 2. A blow, grudge, score: also *one in the eye* (1839). *One in,* hearing another's good fortune and wishing the same to oneself. *One out,* congratulating oneself on a fortunate escape. *One of my cousins,* a harlot. *One of us* (or *them*), a woman of the town (*Ray*). *One under the arm,* an extra job. *One out of it,* I don't want to be mixed up with it. *One of the Lord's own,* a dandy. *To be one upon another's taw,* a person who takes offence at the conduct of another, or conceives himself injured by the latter, will say, never mind I'll be one upon your taw; or, I'll be a marble on your taw; meaning I'll be even with you some time (*Vaux*). *One and thirty,* drunk: see Screwed. *One for his nob,* 1. A blow on the head. 2. See Nob, and Three out.

One-a-piece. *To see one-a-piece,* to see double: see Screwed.

Onee. One: e.g. *onee soldi* (or *win*), one penny.

One - eyed Scribe. A revolver: see Meat-in-the-pot.

One - horse (or **eyed**). Petty, insignificant, of no account: also *one-goat* (1858).

One - in - ten. A parson. [In allusion to tithes].

One Nitch (or **Nick**). A male child; *two nitch,* a baby girl.

One o'clock. See Like.

One-er. 1. A person or thing of great parts: as a very successful play, an exceedingly pretty woman, a crushing blow, a monumental lie: also *wunner.* 2. A shilling: see Rhino.

One's eye. A hiding place for cabbage (q.v.), hell (q.v.).

One Two. In boxing two blows rapidly put in after each other. Jem Belcher was distinguished for his one two.

Onicker. A prostitute.

Onion. 1. The head. *Off his onion,* off his wits: see Tibby. 2. A seal: generally in plural: e.g. Bunch of onions.

Oodles. A large quantity.

Oof (or **Ooftish**). Money. *Oof-bird,* the goose that lays the golden eggs, the source of supply; the *feathered oof-bird,* money in plenty; *to make the oof-bird walk,* to circulate money; *oofless,* poor. [Ooftish was, some twenty years ago, the East End synonym for money, and was derived from *auf tische,* on the table — the aristocracy of Houndsditch being in the habit of refusing to play cards, even with their best friends, unless the money were down on the table. Hence, ooftish, a word which was freely used by the late Mr. Benson and his companions in the De Goncourt frauds. We—that is to say Gub—met ooftish at a thieves' supper in Little Wylde Street, took the animal home, cut his tail off, and turned him loose. So that oof now swaggers about the mansions of the aristocracy.—*Sporting Times*].

O. P. 1. Opposite the Prompter and Prompt Side. 2. Out of print.

Open. *To open the ball,* to start or begin anything (1812). *To open one's mouth too wide,* to bid for larger amounts of stock than one can pay for, to appropriate more than one can use.

Open house. Hospitality for all comers (1530).

Opera Buffer. An actor in opera bouffe.

Opera House. A workhouse: Latin *opera,* work.

Operator. A pickpocket, thief (q.v.).

O-per-se-O. Watchman, bellman, crier (1612).

O.P.H. Off: e.g. Demme, I'm O.P.H.

Oppidan (Eton College). A boy who boards in the town, as distinguished from a King's Scholar.

Opiniator. An assuming positive fellow, an obstinate self-conceited coxcomb (*B. E.*).

Opium-joint. An opium den.

Optic. 1. An eye: see Glims (1600). 2. An optic-glass, spy-glass (1721).

Optime (University). The senior and junior optimes are the second and last classes of Cambridge honours conferred on taking a degree. That of wranglers is the first. The last junior optime is called the Wooden Spoon (*Grose*).

Oracle. A watch, ticker (q.v.) (1708). *To work the oracle*, to plan, succeed by stratagem: specifically to raise money.

Orange. *To suck the orange dry*, to exhaust, deplete.

Orange Lilies. The Thirty-fifth Foot. [From the facings till 1832 and the plumes awarded for gallantry at Quebec in 1759]. Now the 1st Batt. Royal Sussex.

Orate. To make a speech.

Orator. Cf. oration, dialectical for noise or uproar. *Orator to a mountebank*, the Doctor's decoy who in conjunction with Jack Pudding, amuses, diverts, and draws in the patients (*B. E.*).

Orchid. A titled member of the Stock Exchange.

Order. *A large order*, something excessive. *To order one's name* (Winchester School), the direction given to an offender by any of the authorities. The boy so directed, if he was in College, or if the order was given in school, had to go to the Ostiarius—or to the Præfect in course, if the offence was committed in commoners—and give information of the order, and the reason why it had been given. The Ostiarius, or the Præfect in course, wrote down the culprit's name, together with that of the Master, and the offence, and carried it up to the Head or Second Master, when due execution was done (*Adams*).

Order-racket. Obtaining goods from a shopkeeper, by means of a forged order or false pretence.

Ordinary. A wife: see Dutch.

Organ. 1. A clothes' trunk. 2. A pipe. 3. A workman who lends money to his fellows at exorbitant interest; *to play the organ*, to apply for such a loan. *To carry the organ*, to shoulder the pack or valise at defaulters' or marching order drill.

Organ-pipe. 1. The throat, windpipe, the voice. 2. In pl., a fulness in skirt-backs created by folds of starched muslin.

Original Go. A novel predicament (1854).

Orinoko. A poker.

Ornythorhynchus. A creditor, a beast with a bill.

Orphan Collar. One that does not match the shirt in colour or material.

Oschive. See Ochive.

Ostiarius (Winchester College: obsolete). An office held by the Præfects in succession. The duties were, to keep order in school, collect the Vulguses, and prevent the boys from shirking out. It is also the official title for the Second Master.

Ostler. 1. An oat-stealer. 2. In America, a horse-thief.

Otter. A sailor. As adj., eight: also *otto*.

Ottomy. A skeleton, bag of bones (q.v.), atomy (q.v.). *Ottomised*, anatomised (1738).

Ounce. *Half an ounce*, half a crown, silver being formerly estimated at a crown or five shillings an ounce (*Grose*).

Out. 1. A dram-glass: they are made *two-out* (half-quartern), *three-out*, and *four-out*: when a man wants to treat a couple of friends he asks for a quartern of gin and three-out, meaning, a quartern of gin and three glasses, which together will exactly hold that quantity (1836). 2. One out of employment or office; specifically (in politics) a member of the party in opposition: cf. In (1768). 3. Leave to go out, an outing (q.v.), a holiday. 4. A discarded mistress. As verb, (1) to kill, *outing-dues*, the death penalty; (2) to knock out an opponent so that he fails to respond at the call of time. As adv., (1) tipsy: see Screwed; (2) general (society), just presented; (cricketers'), sent from the wickets; (politicians'), not in office; (thieves'), released from gaol; (marketmen's), not on sale; (popular), (*a*) having a tendency to lose, (*b*) wrong, inaccurate, and (*c*) unfashionable (1660). *To live out*, to be in domestic service: i.e. as living from home. *Out of it* (*the hunt*, or *the running*), (1) debarred from participation; (2) having no chance or share; (3) completely ignorant. *To stand out*, to take no part. *Out of twig*, (1) to put any article out of twig, as a stolen coat, cloak, etc., is to alter it in such a way that it cannot be identified. To put yourself *out of twig*, is to disguise your dress and appearance, to avoid being recognised, on some particular account (*Vaux*); (2) to wear shabby clothes. *Out of God's blessing into the warm sun*, from better to worse (1581). *Out for an airing*, said of a horse not meant to win. Other colloquial combinations are *To be at outs*, to quarrel; *to make no outs* (of a person), to misunderstand; *out of countenance*, confounded; *out of hand*, (1) immediately, without delay, (2) ungovernable; *out of cry*, out of measure; *out of frame*, out of order; *out of heart*, worn out (of land), downhearted (of persons); *out* (or *down*) *at heel* (or *at elbows*), shabbily dressed; *out at leg*, feeding in hired pastures (of cattle); *out of pocket*, a loser; *out of temper*, too hot, or too cold; *out of print*, used by booksellers in speaking of any person that is dead; *out of the way*, uncommon, etc., etc. Also see Barrel, Collar, Funds, Harness, Have, Kelter, Loose, Lug, Picaroon, Pocket, Puff, Register, Sorts, Wood.

Out-and-out. Thorough, prime (q.v.), far and away.

Out-and-outer. A person or thing, superlative.

Outer. 1. That part of a target used in rifle-shooting which is outside the circles surrounding the bull's-eye. 2. A shot which strikes the outer part of a target.

Outfit. In the Far West and on the Plains everything is an outfit, from a railway train to a pocket-knife. It is applied indiscriminately,—to a wife, a horse, a dog, a cat, or a row of pins.

Out-Herod. *To out-Herod Herod*, to exceed in excess (1596).

Outing. 1. A holiday, out (q.v.) (1860). 2. A feast given to his friends by an apprentice, at the end of his apprenticeship: when he is out of his time: in some parts of the kingdom this ceremony is termed, by an apprentice and his friends, burying his wife.

Outrider. A highwayman, road-agent (q.v.) (1600).

Outrun. See Constable.

Outs. *Gentlemen of the three outs*, (1) without money, without wit, and without manners (*Grose*); (2) out of pocket, out of elbows, and out of credit (*Lytton*).

Outside. An outside passenger: Fr., *voyageur à quinze francs le cent*: see Inside (1798). As adj., the utmost (1696). *Outside 'Liza*, get out of this. *To get outside of*, (1) to eat or drink; as, to get outside of a pint of beer, or a chop; (2) to understand; and (3) mounted, astride (a horse).

Outsider. 1. In pl., a pair of nippers with semi-tubular jaws which can be inserted in a keyhole from the outside to turn the key. 2. An ignoramus. 3. A person unattached. 4. An incompetent, doubtful, or unknown champion or competitor in any walk of life or sport. 5. A duffer (q.v.), moral, physical, or social. 6. A person who fails to gain admission to the ring from pecuniary or other causes.

Oven. A large mouth. *In the same oven*, in the same plight.

Over. In pl., a surplus on the day's accounts, fluff (q.v.), menavelings (q.v.). *To come over* (or *the old soldier over*) *one*: see Come over, and Come the old soldier. *To get over*, to get the better, to best (q.v.). *To call* (or *fetch*) *over the coals*, to reprimand (1719). *Over the bay*, drunk: see Screwed. *Over the stile*, sent for trial. *To put over the door*, to turn out, give the key of the street (q.v.). *Over at the knees*, weak in the knees. *Over shoes, over boots*, thoroughly, the whole hog. See Bender, Broomstick, and Left.

Over-day Tarts. About 24 hours after capture the herring is liable to the pouring out of extravasation of blood about his gills and fins, which darkened and damaged or bruised appearance is quaintly called in the fish trade over-day tarts.

Overdo. Double diligence.

Overdraw. *To overdraw the badger*: see Badger.

Overflow and Plunder. The unsuspecting theatre-goer has an order for the pit; he goes there, and finds the pit crammed to suffocation by people who have not paid. Upon payment of sixpence he goes to the upper boxes, they are also crowded; sixpence more takes him to the dress circle. Before he can obtain a seat he is bled of another sixpence for his greatcoat, another for his umbrella, and another for a programme. The performances in these places were as disreputable as the management, and, as a rule, would disgrace a show at a country fair.

Overlander. A tramp, sundowner (q.v.): also Overland man and Overland-mailer.

Overland-trout. Bacon.

Overrun. See Constable.

Overscutched (Overswitched, or Overwhipped) - Housewife. A wanton (1598).

Overseen. More or less in liquor: see Screwed (1611).

Overseer. A man in the pillory.

Overshot. Drunk: see Screwed.

Oversparred. Top-heavy, drunk: see Screwed.

Overtaken. Drunk: see Screwed (1655).

Overtoy's Box (Winchester College). A box like a cupboard to hold books: see Toys.

Owl. 1. A prostitute. 2. A member of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge: obsolete. 3. A person much about at night. As verb, (1) to sit up at night; and (2) to carry on a contraband night trade; to smuggle: cf. Owler. *To catch the owl*, a trick practised on ignorant country boobies, who are decoyed into a barn under pretence of catching an owl, where after divers preliminaries, the joke ends in their having a pail of water poured upon their heads (*Grose*). *To take the owl*, to get angry. *To live too near a wood to be frightened by an owl*, not easy to alarm (1708). *To bring* (or *send*) *owls to Athens*, to undertake a work of supererogation, take coals to Newcastle (q.v.): owls abounded in Athens. *Drunk as a biled owl*, very drunk: see Screwed. *Like an owl in an ivy-bush*, said of a person with a large frizzled wig, or a woman whose hair is dressed a-la-blouze (*Grose*).

Owl-car (or train). A late tram car, or train.

Owler. Those who privately in the night carry wool to the sea-coasts, near Rumney-Marsh in Kent. and some creeks in Sussex, etc. and ship it off for France against law (*B. E.*): at one time it was illegal to carry wool or sheep out of the country: owling was repealed by 3 Geo. IV. c. 107].

Owl-light. Dusk. *To walk by owl-light*, to skulk from arrest: Fr., *entre chien et loup* (1610).

Own. *On one's own*, on one's own account. *To own up*, to confess, make a clean breast.

Owned. A preacher is said in this phraseology to be owned when he makes many converts and his converts are called his seals.

Owt. Two: e.g. *owt-yannep-flatch*, twopence - halfpenny; *owt - gens*, two shillings.

Ox. *The black ox has trod on his foot*, to know decay, misfortune, or old age (1537).

Oxer. An ox-fence.

Oxford. A crown piece; *half-oxford*, half-a-crown: see Rhino.

Oxford Blues. The Royal Horse Guards. [From their uniform, 1690].

Oxford Clink. 1. A play upon words. 2. A free pass.

Ox-house. *To go through the ox-house to bed*, to be cuckolded (1696).

Ox-pop. A butcher.

Oyl-of-barley. See Oil.

Oyster. 1. Profit, advantage: because it has a beard. 2. A gob of thick phlegm, spit by a consumptive man (*Grose*). *A choking oyster*, a reply that leaves one nothing to say (1556). *Old oyster*, a vulgar endearment.

Oyster-faced. In need of shaving: in allusion to the oyster's beard.

P and Q. *To be P. and Q*, to be of the first quality, good measure (1612). *To mind one's P's and Q's*, to be careful and circumspect in behaviour, exact. [Of uncertain origin; amongst suggested derivations are (1) the difficulty experienced by children in distinguishing between p and q; and (2) the old custom of alehouse tally, marking p for pint, and q for quart, care being necessary to avoid over- or under-charge. Probably both in combination with the phrase, to be p and q (q.v.), have helped to popularise the expression] (1779).

Pac. A cap.

Pace. *To go the pace*, to live a fast life, be extravagant (1710). *Alderman's pace*, a slow and stately gait: Fr., *pas d'Abbé* (1611). *To show one's paces*, to exhibit one's capability, to show what one can do.

Pacer. Primarily a fast horse; hence anything of great speed or activity.

Pack. A prostitute. Also a general term of reproach with no reference to sex: see Naughty. As adj., intimate, familiar (1795). As verb (also *pack off, send packing, give a packing-penny to*, etc.), (1) to dismiss without ceremony, send about one's business, discharge summarily, depart hurriedly (1540). (2) To drink: see Screwed. *To eat the pack* (or *packie*), to waste one's substance, spend all. *Eat-the-pack*, a spendthrift.

Packet. A hoax, false report. *Packets*, an expression of incredulity.

Pack-thread. Covert obscenity.

Pact. *To spend the pact*, to waste one's substance: also *to perish the pact.*

Pad. 1. A path, road, highway: also High-pad (1573). 2. An easy-paced horse, ambler: also *Pad-nag* (1696). 3. A highway robber, foot-pad, tramp: also Padder and (Scots') Paddist (1610). 4. Highway robbery (1664). 5. A bed: also *pod.* As verb, (1) to travel on foot, tramp: also *to pad* (*plod, bang*, or *beat*) *the hoof* (q.v.): Fr., *fendre l'ergot* (to split the spur) (1598); (2) to rob on foot, or on the highway: also *to go on the pad* (1639). *On the pad*, on the tramp. *To stand pad*, to beg by the wayside. *To pad round*, to pay great attention to a customer, cringe, crawl. *Gentlemen of the pad*: see Padder. *Pad in the straw*, anything amiss, danger concealed, snake in the grass (1551).

Pad-borrower. A horse thief.

Pad-clinking. Hobnobbing with foot-pads.

Padded. 1. See Pad. 2. In pl., feet, boots, shoes: see Creepers (1828).

Padding-crib (or **ken**). A lodging house: cf. Doss-house.

Paddington-fair. A hanging. [Tyburn being in Paddington Parish]. *To dance the Paddington frisk*, to be hanged: see Ladder.

Paddington-spectacles. The cap pulled over the eyes of a criminal on the scaffold: see Paddington-fair.

Paddle. The hand: see Daddle. As verb, (1) to drink: hence *to have paddled*, to be intoxicated: see Screwed; (2) to go or run away. See Canoe.

Paddy. 1. An Irishman: also *Paddy-whack* and *Paddylander.* Hence *Paddy-land*, Ireland (*Grose*). English synonyms: bog-trotter, Emeralder, Mick, mike, micky, paddylander, paddy-whack, Pat, patent Frenchman, patlander, shirt (1801). 2. A rage, passion: also Paddy-whack. *To come paddy over*, to bamboozle, humbug.

Paddy quick. 1. A stick. 2. Thick.

Paddy's Blackguards. The Royal Irish Regiment, formerly The 18th Foot. Also The Namurs.

Paddy's Hurricane. No wind at all, a breeze up and down the mast.

Paddy-wack (Paddy, or Paddy's Watch). Before the tax on almanacs . . . a class of printers [sold] an almanack unstamped, and this was often called Paddy's Watch. They were hawked about, . . . sold at 3d., and often for less, when a stamped almanac cost 1s. 9d. or 2s, I have often heard . . . 'Have you an almanac?' and the answer has been. 'We have a Paddy.'

Paddywester. Incompetent, worth less, or destitute sailors or landsmen masquerading as seamen.

Padlock. See Pleasure Boat.

Pad-nag. See Pad.

Padre. A clergyman: see Devil-dodger.

Paff. An interjection of contempt; bosh! *Piff-paff*, jargon (1851).

Pagan. A prostitute (1659).

Paget's Irregular Horse. The Fourth Hussars. [From its loose drill after return from India].

Paid. Intoxicated: see Screwed.

Paiker (Paikie or Calsay Paiker). A prostitute.

Paint. Money: see Rhino. As verb, to drink. *Painted*, drunk. See Red and Fresh.

Painted-box. A coffin.

Painted Mischief. Playing cards, history of the Four Kings (q.v.).

Painter. *To cut the painter*, to send away, cut adrift, interfere to prevent mischief: also see Cut.

Pair. A flight of stairs; e.g. *two-pair back*, the room at the back of the second flight of stairs.

Pair of Shears. See Shears.

Pair of Spectacles. See Spectacles.

Pair of Wings. Oars.

Pal. A chum, friend, partner,

accomplice. As verb, (1) to make friends with, chum; (2) to detect in any pretence.

Palace. A police-station.

Palarie. To talk: cf. Palaver.

Palatic. Drunk: see Screwed.

Palaver. 1. A fussy and ostentatious person: generally *Old palaver*. 2. Conversation, discussion: specifically idle talk, flattery, cajolery: also as verb. *Palaverer*, a flatterer (1748). As verb, to fuss.

Pale. *To leap the pale*, to break bounds, exceed (1593).

Paleface. A white: in poetry and fiction, as from an Indian dialect.

Palestine in London. That portion of the parish of St. Giles, Bloomsbury, inhabited by the lower Irish: also The Holy Land.

Palette. A hand: see Daddle.

Palliard. 1. A born beggar, tramp; primarily a vagabond who lies on straw (1567). 2. A lecher.

Palliasse. A harlot.

Palm. 1. To bribe, tip (q.v.): also *to grease* (*anoint*, or *gild*) *the palm* (or *hand*). *An itching palm*, a hand ready to receive bribes: cf. the old superstition that money is about to be received if the palm itches; *palm-oil* (*grease* or *soap*, or *oil of palms* or *angels*), a bribe, whence also, money: Fr., *huile* and *graisse* (1513); *Mr. Palmer is concerned*, of a person bribed or bribing. 2. To conceal in the palm of the hand, swindle, misrepresent. *Palming* (*palmistry* or *palming-racket*), trickery (by secreting in the palm of the hand): specifically shop-lifting, the thieves hunting in pairs, one bargaining, the other watching opportunities; *to palm off*, to beguile, gammon (q.v.); *palmer*, a trickster: specifically at cards and dice (1601). *To bear the palm*, to excel, be first or best. [The Romans gave branches of palm to a victorious gladiator.]

Palm-acid (or oil). 1. A caning: on the hand. 2. See Palm.

Palmer (Durham School). 1. A shy fellow. 2. See Palm.

Palmerston. Lord Palmerston described himself as acting the part of a judicious bottle-holder among the foreign Powers. A lately-invented instrument to hold a bottle has thus received the name of a Palmerston (1865).

Palmetto State. South Carolina. [From the arms of the State: a variety of dwarf palm or palmetto is abundant therein.] Whence *Palmetto flag*, *Palmetto city*, and *Palmetto boys* (1861).

Palm-oil. See Palm, and Palm-acid.

Palsy. Generic for weakness. *Palsy in the hand*, the habit of dicing (1608).

Paltock's Inn. A poverty-stricken place (1579).

Pam. 1. The Knave of Clubs. [*Skeat*: a contraction of Pamphillion (Fr.), the Knave of Clubs] (1706). 2. Lord Palmerston.

Pan. 1. The workhouse. 2. A bed: see Kip (1708). 3. Money: see Rhino. *To pan out*, to yield, give a result or return: originally a mining term; gold dust being put with water in a pan and shaken, when gold sinks to the bottom. *To have a pan on*, to have a fit of the blues, be down in the dumps. *To savour of the pan* (or *frying-pan*), to betray origin, smell of the lamp (q.v.): also (old literary) to savour of heresy: cf. *sentir le fagot*, from which there would appear to be a reference to the ancient punishment for heresy (1555). See Cat, Fluff, and Flash.

Pancake Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday. [By ancient custom pancakes are then eaten.]

Pandy (or Pandie). A stroke from a cane, strap, or tawse on the palm of the hand by way of punishment: also (Scots') *paumie*. [From the order in Latin *Pande* palmum (or manum), Hold out your hand.] As verb, to cane or strap.

Panel (Parnel, or Pernel). An immodest woman, prostitute (1362).

Panel-crib (den, or house). A brothel specially fitted for robbery.

Panjamdrum (The Great). A village potentate, Brummagem magnate. [From Foote's nonsense lines, written to test Macklin's memory:—'So she went into the garden to cut a cabbage-leaf to make an apple pie; and at the same time a great she-bear, coming up the street, pops its head into the shop. "What! no soap?" So he died, and she very imprudently married the barber, and there were present the Picninnies, and the Joblillies, and the Garyulies, and the

Grand Panjandrum himself, with the little round button on top, and they all fell to playing the game of catch as catch can, till the gunpowder ran out at the heel of their boots'] (1777).

Pannicky. Given to panic.

Pannier-man. A servant of an (inn of court: his office is to announce dinner (*Grose*) (1654).

Pannikin. *To roll one's pannikin into another shed*, to leave one man's service for another.

Pannum (Panum, or Pannam). Bread, food. [Latin, *panis*]. Hence *pannum-bound*, cut of one's allowance; *pannum-* (or *cokey-*) *fence*, a street pastry cook; *pannum-struck*, starving (1567).

Panny. 1. The highway (1754). 2. A house, public or otherwise; also, apartments, rooms, lodgings. Hence *flash-panny*, (*a*) a brothel; and (*b*) a public-house used by thieves (*Grose*). 3. A burglary: also *panny-lay*. Hence, *panny-man*, a housebreaker; *to do a panny*, to rob a house (*Grose*).

Pantables. *To stand upon one's pantables*, to stand upon dignity, assert one's position. [Pantables—pantoufle—slipper]. (1580).

Pantagruelian. An artist in life. [From Pantagruel, the title character of Rabelais.]

Panter. 1. The hart. [Because said (in Psalms) to pant after the fresh water brooks] (1696). 2. The heart: also, in pl., the paps: Fr., *Saint-ciboire*, *battant* (beater), *fressure* (pluck or fry); *palpitant*; It., *salsa* (sauce) (1725).

Pants. Short for pataloons: also *panteys* and (colloquial) *pantalettes*.

Pantile. 1. A hat. 2. A flat cake covered with jam. 3. A biscuit. As adj., dissenting.

Pantiler. A Dissenter—minister or layman.

Pantler. A butler, pantry-man (1598).

Panupetaston. A loose overcoat with wide sleeves.

Pap. 1. The emoluments of office—salaries, fees, perquisites. 2. Paper: specifically paper money, or soft (q.v.). 3. (*a*) A nipple, (*b*) a breast (1390). 4. Father, pop (q.v.). 5. Bread sauce (1785). *To give pap with a hatchet*, to chastise, do an unkindness, treat unhandsomely (1589). *Mouth full of pap*, still childish (1785).

Papaw. A bush-whacker. [*Century*: with reference to possible subsistence on the fruit].

Paper. 1. Free passes of admission to a place of entertainment; also (collectively) recipients of such passes. Hence, *papery*, occupied by persons admitted with free tickets. As verb, to issue free passes. Fr., *salle de papier*, a house filled with paper. 2. Negotiable instruments: as promissory notes, bills of exchange, etc. (1837). 3. Broadsides and similar literature: hence *paper worker*, a vendor of street literature, *running stationer* (q.v.) (1851). *To read the paper*, to excuse oneself for taking a nap: see Doss. See Shave and Spot.

Paper-building. *Paper-buildings*, slight, wooden, or old (*B. E.*).

Paper-maker. A rag-gatherer, gutter-raker: Fr., *chiffortin*.

Paper-man. An officer who, being employed on the staff, is not available for regimental duty.

Paper-marriage. A Society wedding. [The fees are paid in banknotes.]

Paper-mill, The. The Record Office of the Court of King's Bench.

Paper-scull. A fool: hence *paper sculled*, foolish, silly (1696).

Paper-stainer. An author, or clerk: in contempt.

Pap-feeder. A spoon.

Pap-head. A woman's nipple, the cherrylet (q.v.) (1530).

Paphian. A prostitute. [Paphos a city in Cyprus sacred to Venus].

Papler. See Poplar.

Pap-mouth. An effeminate man.

Papoose. A child, kid (q.v.). [Of Indian origin.] (1634).

Par. 1. Gold and silver at a like proportion (*B. E.*). 2. An abbreviation of paragraph.

Parade. *To burn the parade*, to warn more men for guard than were necessary, and excusing the supernumeraries for money. . . . A practice formerly winked at in most garrisons, a perquisite to the adjutants and sergeant majors; the pretence for it was to purchase coal and candle for the guard, whence it was called burning the parade.

Parader. 1. A person of good figure and address employed to walk up and down in front of, or inside a shop; a shop-walker: cf. Barker. 2.

A person or thing that by challenging attention acts as a foil or set-off (1748).

Paradise. 1. The gallery of a theatre, the gods (q.v.): Fr., *paradis*. 2. A grove of trees outside St. John's College, Oxford. *Fool's paradise*, a state of fancied security, enjoyment, etc. (1528). *To have* (or *get*) a *penn'orth of paradise*, to take a drink, esp. gin: see Screwed.

Paralysed. Drunk: see Screwed.

Paralytic-fit (or **stroke**). A badly fitting garment—that fits where it touches.

Param. Milk: also Yarum (1573).

Parcel. The day's winnings, a pocket-book.

Parcel-bawd. One whose employment was partly that of bawd. [Parcel, part: as parcel-gilt, partly-gilt.] (1603).

Pard. A partner, chum (q.v.).

Parenthesis. In pl., a pair of bandy legs. *Wooden parenthesis*, a pillory (1785). *Iron parenthesis*, a prison: see Cage. *To have one's nose* (or *bowsprit*) *in parenthesis*, to have it pulled (*Grose*).

Parings. Clippings of money (1696).

Parish. *His stockings belong to two parishes*, odd, mis-paired (1785).

Parish-bull (**prig**, or **stallion**). A parson: see Devil-dodger.

Parish-lantern. The moon, Oliver (q.v.). noom (q.v.): Fr., *cafarde* (tell-tale), *cymbale*, *luisante* (or *luisarde*) *grosse lentille*, *moucharde*, *pâlote*, and *pair*.

Parish-soldier. A militia-man: from substitutes being frequently hired by the parish.

Park. 1. A prison: see Cage. 2. The rules or privileged circuit round the King's Bench or Fleet: the park is well stocked when many prisoners have obtained the rules. 3. A back yard, a strip of town-garden.

Parkey (or **Parky**). Cold, uncomfortable: as when sleeping in the open.

Park-railings (or **palings**). 1. The teeth: see Grinders. 2. The neck of mutton.

Parleyvoo. The conventional school study and use of the French language. As verb, to speak French, talk gibberish (1837).

Parliamentary-press. An old custom, among tailors, of claiming any iron, which happens to be in use, for the purpose of opening the collar seam.

Parlour. *Out of the parlour into the kitchen*, from better to worse; out of God's blessing into the warm sun (1598). *Parlour full of razors*, claret with seltzer or lemonade: see Drinks.

Parlour-jumping. Robbing rooms: specifically by window-entry: see Jump.

Parnel. See Panel.

Parnee (or **Paunee**). Rain. *Dowry of parney*, plenty of rain. *Pawnee-game*, water-drinking.

Parrot (or **Parroteer**). A talkative person, esp. one given to mechanical repetition. As verb, to chatter, repeat mechanically. *Parrotry*, servile imitation; *parrot-lawyer*, a solicitor obsequious to a client's Yea and Nay (1612). See Almond.

Parson. A wayside sign-post (q.v.) (1785). As verb, (1) to marry; (2) to church (after child-delivery). Whence *parsoned*, married or churched; *married and parsoned*, duly and legally married. *To kiss the parson's wife*, to be lucky in horse-flesh (1785). *Remember Parson Mullum!* Pray drink about, sir (1676). *Maryland parson*, a disreputable cleric.

Parson Palmer. One who stops the circulation of the glass, by preaching over his liquor, as it is said was done by a parson of that name whose cellar was under his pulpit (*Grose*).

Parson's barn. A barn never so full but there is room for more.

Parson's-journeyman. A curate (1785).

Parson's-nose. A chicken's rump: cf. Pope's nose and Pope's-eye: Fr., *bonnet d'évêque*. *Parson's leman*: see Tender.

Parson's Week. The period from Monday to Saturday (1800).

Part. To pay, restore, give: hence *parter*, a paymaster, good or bad: cf. a fool and his money are soon parted (*Tusser*, 1573).

Particular. A favourite mistress: Fr., *particulière*: also (generally) a special choice; e.g. to ride one's own particular, to a glass of one's particular, *Particular Jesse*: see Jesse. *London particular* (or *London ivy*), a thick yellow or black fog, the product of certain atmospheric conditions and carbon: formerly peculiar to London. now common in most large manufacturing cities situated near water and lying low (1832).

Partlet. A woman (1598).

Partner. See Sleeping partner.

Partridge. A whore: cf. Plover.

Party. A person, individual (1542).

Party-roll (Winchester College). A list of boys going home together: see Peal.

Pass. To fail to understand, have no concern in: e.g. I pass, I don't know what you are driving at. [From euchre.] *To pass* (or *hand*) *in one's chips* (or *checks*), to die: see Hop the twig: from adjusting one's accounts at poker. *To pass the time of day*, to salute. *To pass the compliment*, to offer (or give) a douceur, tip.

Passage-at-arms. A squabble, row.

Passenger. An oar who, from incompetence or accident, is unable to do his share of the work. *To wake up the wrong passenger*, to mistake one's man, commit an error of judgment in regard to character, action, or motive. [From transcontinental travel.] (1855).

Passions. See Pocket.

Passy. Severe: of a master (Christ's Hospital). [That is passionate, *Blanch.*] Now obsolete; the modern equivalent is vish (q.v.).

Past. *Past complaining*, murdered. Colloquialisms are—*past believing*, incredible; *past praying for*, hopeless; *past-master* (or *mistress*), an adept; *past whooping*, undeniable, beyond question; *past-price*, invaluable (1602).

Paste. Brains. [From paste and scissors: in sarcasm.] As verb, to beat, thrash, slap the face right and left. [From bill-sticking]. Hence, *pasting*, a drubbing (1851).

Paste-and-scissors. Extracts, padding: as distinguished from original matter.

Pasteboard. 1. A playing card (1857). 2. A visiting card: also as verb (or *to shoot*, or *drop*, *one's pasteboard*), to leave a visiting card at a person's house (1849).

Pasteboard-customer. A customer taking long credit.

Paste-horn. The nose: see Conk: hence *Old paste-horn*, a large-nosed man.

Pastern. A foot: see Creepers. Hence, *full in the pasterns*, thick-ankled (1700).

Pasty. A bookbinder. As adj., out of sorts, angry, off colour (q.v.).

Pat. An Irishman: also Patlander. As adj. and adv., apt, convenient, suitable, timely, exactly to the purpose (1592).

Patch. A saucy fellow, fool. Primarily, the domestic jester. Hence *cross-patch*, an ill-natured fool: as in the children's rhyme:—Cross-patch, draw the latch, Sit by the fire and spin (1579). *Not a patch upon*, not to compare to.

Patchey. The harlequin, spangle-maker (q.v.).

Pate. The head: almost always in derision: see Crumpet (1604).

Patent-coat. An inside skirt coat pocket.

Patent-digester. Brandy.

Patent Frenchman. An Irishman.

Patent-inside (or outside). A newspaper printed on the inside (or outside) only, the unprinted space being intended for local news, advertisements, etc.

Patent Safeties (The). The First Life Guards. Also The Cheeses, The Piccadilly Butchers, and The Tin Bellies.

Pater-cove. See Patrico.

Paternoster. A fishing-line with hooks and shot at regular intervals. [As beads on a rosary] (1849). *Devil's paternoster*, a muttering, grumbling: a profane expletive (1383). *Ape's paternoster*: see Ape. *In a paternoster while*, quickly, in a jiffey (q.v.). [While one could say a paternoster.] (1362).

Patience on a monument. A long-suffering person.

Patrico. A vagabond, unfrocked priest, hedge-priest (q.v.): also *patri-arck-co*, *patricove*, *pattering-cove*, and *pater-cove* (1536).

Pattens. *To run on pattens*, to clatter, talk nineteen to the dozen (1575).

Patter. Originally muttering (of paternosters): hence, talk of any kind, but specifically (1) the inconsequent orations of cheap jacks (q.v.), buskers (q.v.), showmen. (2) The dialect or cant of a class. Hence also *patter*, a piece of street literature, pin-up (q.v.); slum (q.v.). Hence, *patterer*, a vendor of street literature: with running-patterer (or stationer): obsolete since police control of traffic. As adj. and verb, whence *to patter flash*, to talk slang or cant; *to flash the patter*, to talk, esp. to talk slang; *to stand* (or *be in for*) *the patter*, (thieves') to stand for trial; *humbox-patterer*, a parson. English synonyms: to cackle, to cant, to chin, to chinwag, to chip, to chirp, to chow, to chuck it out, to clack, to confab, to crack, to cut, to Duke of York (rhyming, to talk), to flam, to flummox by the lip, to gabble, to give lip, to jabber, to jaw, to jaw-hawk, to jerk chin-music, to ladle, to lip, to lip-labour, to mag, to mang, to pipe, to rap, to slam, to slang, to voker, to waffle, to wag the red rag, to warble (1360). As verb, (1) to talk; (2) to eat.

Patteran. A gipsy trail made by throwing down a handful of grass.

Patter-cove. See Patrico.

Patter-crib. A lodging-house or inn frequented by thieves, flash-panny (q.v.).

Paul. *To go to Paul's* (or *Westminster*), *for a wife*, to go whoring. [*Halliwell*: Old St. Paul's was in former times a favourite resort for purposes of business, amusement, lounging, or assignations; bills were fixed up there, servants hired, and a variety of matters performed wholly inconsistent with the sacred nature of the edifice.] Hence *Paul's walkers*, loungers; *as well-known as Paul's*, notorious (1598). See also Old, Peter, Pigeon.

Paul Pry. An inquisitive man: from Poole's comedy (1825).

Paunch. To eat (1564).

Paunch-guts. A fat-bellied man, jelly-belly (q.v.): see Forty-guts.

Pav. The Pavilion Music Hall: cf. Met.

Paved. *To have one's mouth paved*, to be hard of mouth (1708).

Pavement. See Nymph.

Pavior's-workshop. The street (*Grose*).

Paw. The hand. *Forepaw*, the hand; *hind-paw*, the foot; *paw-cases*, gloves. As verb, to handle roughly or obscenely (1605).

Pawn. To steal away and leave him or them to pay the reckoning (*B. E.*).

Pawnee. See Parney.

Paw-paw. Naughty. Hence *paw-paw words*, obscene expressions; *paw-paw tricks*, (1) wantonness; (2) (of children, by nurses), tiresome pranks.

Pax (Winchester College). An intimate friend. [*Wrench*: Possibly the plural of *pack*, which word has an extended use in reference to friendship . . . as adj., subs., and vb. . . . This seems a more likely origin than the *Pax* of the Church.] As intj., Keep quiet! Hands off! Also *Have pax!* [*Wrench*: Almost the pure Latin use of the word.]

Pay. To beat, punish, serve out, pitch into: generally with *out*: also *to pay home* (or *away*). Hence *payment*, *chastisement* (1785). *To pay away*, (1) to go on, proceed: as with a narration or action. (2) To fight manfully (*Grose*). (3) To eat voraciously (*Grose*). *To pay with a hook*, to steal; cf. Hook: see Prig. Colloquialisms are:—*To pay old scores*, to get even; *to pay one in his own coin*, to give tit for tat; *to pay the last debt* (or *the debt of nature*), to die; *What's to pay?* what's the matter; *to pay up and look pretty* (or *big*), to accept the inevitable with grace. See also Deuce, Devil, Footing, Fiddler, Nose, Pepperidge, Piper, Rent, Scores, Shot, and Whistle.

P.D. A mixture used in adulterating pepper. [A contraction of pepper dust.]

P. D. Q. Pretty damned quick.

Pea. The favourite, the choice. [From thimble-rigging: e.g. this is the pea I choose.]

Peacemaker. 1. In pl., The Bedfordshire Regiment, formerly The Sixteenth Foot. [From Surinaam in 1804 to Chitral in 1895 the Bedfordshires missed all chances of active service.] 2. A revolver: see Meat in the pot.

Peach. 1. A detective: specifically one employed by omnibus and (formerly) by stage coach proprietors to check receipts. 2. A girl or young woman of pleasing parts; cf. Plum. As verb, to inform, betray, split (q.v.), round on (q.v.). [From impeach.] Hence *peacher*, an informer (*Grose*). English synonyms: to bust, blow the gaff, cast up accounts, cackle, castell, crab, crack, clipe, chirp, come it, hedgehog, dick, inkle, leak, let on, let out, lip, make a song, nose, give the office, put away, put up, put a down on, be rusty, ruck on, round on, scream, snap, snitch, stag, squeal, squeak, split, tip, tip the wink, whiddle, whittle (1362).

Peacock. 1. A gull. 2. A horse with action: cf. *peacock-horse*, a horse with a showy mane and tail. Hence, *peacocky*, showy; as verb, (1) to display (as a peacock its tail), to put on war-paint or side; (2) to make a formal call.

Peacock - engine. A locomotive with a separate tender for coals and water.

Pea- (or peak-) goose. A silly fellow: a general term of reproach (1570).

Peak. 1. Lace (1696). 2. The nose: see Conk.

Peak-goose. See Pea-goose.

Peaking. Remnants of cloth: cf. Makings and Cabbage.

Peal (Winchester: obsolete). 1. A custom in Commoners of singing out comments on Præfects at Cloister-time (q.v.). 2. Cheers given on the last three Sundays of the Half for articles of dress, etc., connected with going home, such as Gomer hats (q.v.), Party rolls (q.v.), etc. 3. Chapel bells which were divided into peals. [*Halliwell*, a noise or uproar: cf. M. E. *apel*, an old term in hunting-music consisting of three long moots.] As verb, to scold (1785).

Pealer. A very energetic person, rustler (q.v.), hummer (q.v.). See Peeler.

Peanut - politics. Secret tactics. The pea-nut buries its pods after flowering, a process by which the nuts are ripened.]

Pear. To draw supplies from both sides: as from the police for information, and from thieves for a warning. *Pear-making*, bounty jumping (1785).

Pea - rigger (or Pea-man). See Thimble-rigger.

Pearl. *To make a pearl on the nail*, to drink (1767).

Pearlies. In pl., pearl buttons: sewn down the sides of coster trousers.

Peas. *As like as two peas*, as like as may be.

Pease - kill. *To make a pease-kill*, to squander lavishly: e.g. when a man's affairs go wrong and interested persons get the management of his property, it is said, They're makin' a bonny pease-kill o't. A law-suit is said to be a pease-kill for the lawyers (*Jamieson*).

Peas - field. *To go into the peas-field*, to fall asleep: see Balmy.

Peat. 1. A delicate person: esp. a young girl. 2. (ironically) A spoilt favourite (1578).

Pea - time. *In the last of pea-time* (or *picking*), in decline of years, hard-up, *passé*. *Pea-time is past*, dead, ruined, gone beyond recall.

Pebble. *My pebbles*, a familiar address.

Pebbly-beached. Without means, stony-broke (q.v.); high-and-dry (q.v.). Hence *to sight* (or *land on*) *a pebbly beach*, to be face to face with ruin; *to pebble beach*, to suck dry, clean out: see Dead-broke.

Pec (Eton College: obsolete). Money: see Rhino. [From Latin *pecunia*.]

Peccavi. An acknowledgment of offence, mistake, or defeat. *To cry peccavi*, to confess to wrong-doing or failure. [Latin, I have sinned.] (1578).

Peck (or **Pek**). 1. Food of any kind, grub (q.v.), a meal, feed: also *peckage*. Hence, *ruff-peck* (q.v.), bacon; *peck and boose*, meat and drink; *rum-peck* (q.v.), good-eating; *grunting-peck*, pork; *off one's peck*, without appetite, off one's feed (1567). 2. See Racing-peck. As verb, (1) to eat (1536); (2) to pitch, throw (1856).

Peck-alley. The throat; gutter-alley (q.v.).

Pecker. 1. The appetite. Hence, a *good* (or *rare*) *pecker*, a hearty eater. 2. Courage, spirits, good cheer: e.g. *Keep your pecker up*, be of good heart (1853).

Peckham. *To have* (or *spend*) *a holiday at Peckham*, to have nothing to eat. *Going to Peckham*, going to dinner (1823).

Peckish. Hungry (1785).

Peculiar. 1. A belonging. 2. A mistress (1647).

Peculiar Institution. Negro slavery — the peculiar domestic institution of the Southern States.

Ped. 1. A basket (1579). 2. A professional walker or runner.

Ped-belly. A fat man or woman, corporation (q.v.).

Pedescript. Bruises from kicks (1659).

Pedestrian Digits. The legs.

Pedlar's French. 1. Cant, or the language of thieves and vagabonds. 2. Any unintelligible jargon; also St. Giles' Greek (q.v.). [French and Greek here unintelligible.] (1530).

Pedlar's-news. Stale news, stereo: also *piper's* (*mung-* or *tinker's*) *news*.

Pedlar's-pony (horse, or pad). A walking-stick; a Penang-lawyer (q.v.), waddy (q.v.).

Peel. To undress, strip (1785). Hence *peeled*, naked: see Nature's garb. *To peel it*, to run at full speed. *To peel eggs*, to stand on ceremony. See Keep.

Peeler. 1. A policeman. [First applied to the Royal Irish Constabulary established by Sir Robert Peel, when Irish Secretary (1812-18), and subsequently, for similar reasons (1828-39), to the Metropolitan Police.] 2. One ready to strip for the combat. 3. A very energetic person, ripper (q.v.). *Sir Peeler*, a poverty-striking crop (1557).

Peep. 1. To speak. 2. To sleep (1696).

Peeper. 1. A spy-glass. 2. The eye. 3. In pl., a pair of spectacles. Hence *painted peepers* (or *peepers in mourning*), black eyes (1656). English synonyms: blinkers, daylights, glaziers, glims, mutton-pies (rhyming), ogles, optics, sees, winkers. 4. A looking-glass (1696). *Single peeper*, a one-eyed man (1785).

Peeping. *A peeping Tom*, an inquisitive person, Paul Pry (q.v.). [From the Coventry Legend.]

Peep-o'-day-boy. A street roister [Regency].

Peepsies. The pan-pipes.

Peepy. Drowsy, sleepy. *To go to peepy* (or *peep-*) *by*, to sleep.

Peery (or Peerie). Suspicious, knowing, sly, sharp-looking. As verb, to look about suspiciously (1665).

Peety. Cheerful (1726).

Pee-wee. A small marble.

Peg. 1. A dram, drink, go (q.v.): specifically (in India), a brandy-and-soda. In the 16th century peg-tankards held two quarts, divided by seven pegs or pins, one above the other, into eight equal portions. Hence, *to drink to pegs*, to drink the draught marked in a peg tankard; *to add* (or *drive*) *a peg* (or *nail*) *into one's coffin*, to drink hard; *to go a peg lower*, to drink to excess; *a peg too low*, (1) drunk; (2) low-spirited; *pegger*, a persistent drinker, nipster (q.v.)(1821). 2. A blow: spec. (old boxers') a straight drive in the pit of the stomach: see Dig and Wipe. Whence *pegging*, a beating (1600). 3. A foot or leg: also *cribbage-pegs*: see Creepers. 4. A tooth. 5. A shilling; a bob (q.v.): see Rhino. 6. A step, degree. Hence *to take down a peg*, to humiliate; *to hoist a peg higher*, to advance (1625). 7. A text, excuse (1791). 8. A diminutive of Margaret: also *Peggy*. As verb, (1) to drive (1819); (2) to throw at cocks at Shrovetide (*B. E.*). (3) to beat; (4) to drink frequently, tipple; (5) (Stock Exchange), to fix a market price, and prevent fluctuation by buying all that is offered at it, thus debarring lower quotations; or, selling all that the market will take at it, thus preventing higher quotations; (6) to run: cf. To peg away. *To peg away* (*at* or *on*), (1) to work persistently, put in licks (q.v.): Fr., *aller son petit bonhomme de chemin*: hence *pegging*, plodding (1749); (2) to fight. *To peg into*, to hit, let drive (1834). *To peg out*, (1) to die: see Hop the twig; (2) to be ruined, quisby (q.v.). *To be pegged out*, to be notorious. *On the peg*, (1) under arrest, roosted (q.v.); (2) under stoppage of pay, fined. *To put on the peg*, to pull oneself up (or together), be careful: as of drink, behaviour. etc. *There are always more round pegs than round holes*, there are always more candidates than places. *Old peg*, poor hard Suffolk or Yorkshire Cheese (*Grose*).

Pegasus. *To break Pegasus's neck*, to write halting verse (1728).

Peggy. A slender poker, disposedly bent at right angles for the purpose of raking the fire: cf. Rector and Curate.

Peg-leg. A wooden legged man or woman.

Peg Puff. An old young woman: cf. Old ewe dressed lamb-fashion.

Pegtops. In pl., trousers: very wide at the hips and narrowing down to a tight-fit at the ankles (1859).

Peg Trantum. *Gone to Peg Trantum's*, dead: see Hop the twig.

Pek. See Peck.

Pelican State. Louisiana. [From

its armorial bearings, the bird being common in the State.]

Pell-mell. In confusion, higgledy-piggledy (1696). Also as subs. and verb (1591).

Pelt. 1. A hurry: hence *to pelt* (or *go full pelt*), to go as hard or as fast as may be. 2. A rage, passion, blow: also *pelter*. As verb, to be violently angry; *pelting* (or *out for a pelter*), very angry, passionate (1594). 3. The skin (1694). 4. A miser, stingy fellow: also *pelter* (1552). 5. Clothes; sometimes in pl.: spec. garments made of peltry, the furs of beasts (1567). As verb, (1) see subs.; (2) to sew thickly.

Pelter. 1. A heavy shower: hence a rain of missiles. 2. Anything large, whopper (q.v.). 3. A pistol.

Pelting. Mean, paltry, contemptible (1570).

Peltis-hole. A term of reproach: of women (1500).

Pempe (Winchester), An imaginary object in search of which a newcomer is sent: cf. Pigeon's milk, Strap-oil, Squad umbrella, etc. [From *pempe moron proteroy*, send the fool farther.]

Pen. 1. A prison, penitentiary: see Cage. 2. A saucy man with a sharp nose. 3. A three-penny piece *knight of the pen*, an author or journalist.

Penance-board. The pillory (1696).

Pen-and-ink. A stink. Also as verb.

Penang-lawyer. A species of palm imported from Penang for walking-sticks. They are small and hard, and have a portion of the root-stock attached, which is left to form the handle. [Probably a corruption of *Penang liyar*, the wild areca.]

Penbank. A beggar's can (1728).

Pencil-fever. A disease amongst race-horses, generally preceded by milking (q.v.). When a horse has been milked to the utmost, and can no longer, in spite of marketeers (q.v.), be kept at a short price, his true condition gets known, pencil-fever sets in, and every layer is anxious to pencil his name in his betting-book, i.e. lay against him as a safe or stiff 'un (q.v.). Also Milk-fever and Market-fever. Whence *penciller*, a book-maker: also *knight of the pencil*; and *pencilling fraternity*, the world of bookmakers.

Pen-driver. A clerk or writer: cf. Quill-driver.

Pen-gun (Penguin). A talkative person: esp. of small stature. *To crack like a pen-gun*, to chatter.

Peninsular. A veteran of the Peninsular war.

Pennif. A five pound note; a finnup (q.v.).

Penniless Bench. Poverty. *On the penniless bench*, poverty stricken; *Pierce Penniless*, an embodiment of impecuniosity: cf. Poverty Corner (1579).

Penny. 1. Money in general, oof (q.v.). Hence, *a pretty penny*, a large sum: see Rhino (1362). 2. A cent. Various colloquial usages obtain: e.g. *A penny for your thoughts*, a call to persons in a brown study (q.v.); *at first penny*, at first bid or offer; *clean as a penny*, (1) very clean, and (2) completely; *not a penny to bless oneself with*, very poor; *penny or paternoster*, pay or prayers, love or money: cf. Money or marbles (*Gascoigne*); *to think one's penny silver*, to have a good opinion of oneself; *to turn an honest penny*, to earn money honestly; *to turn* (or *get*) *a penny*, to make money, to endeavour to live (*Dryden*); *penny wise and pound foolish*, careful in small matters and extravagant in large ones (*Grose*); *penny plain or twopence coloured*, said of things varying in quality.] (1510).

Penny-a-liner. A writer of paragraphs at the rate of a penny a line (or some such small sum), a literary hack: Fr., *écrivain de ferblanc*. Hence, *penny-a-linerism* (1840).

Penny-boy. A boy who haunted the cattle markets on the chance of driving beasts to the slaughter-house, an ankle-beater (q.v.). [They were paid a penny per head.]

Penny-dreadful (or **awful**). A sensational story, newspaper, or print. [Published at a penny.] See Awful, Blood-and-thunder, and Shilling Shocker.

Penny-father (or **Peni-father**). A miser, niggard (1551).

Penny-gaff. A low-class theatre or music-hall. [The charge for admission being a penny or two.] Also *penny-room* and *dukey*.

Penny-hop. A country dancing club. [Each person paid a penny to the fiddler.]

Penny-lattice-house. A low ale-house: see Lush-crib and Red-lattice.

Penny-poet. A reproach; a gutter rhymster (1601).

Penny-pots. Pimples on the face of a hard drinker.

Penny-royal. Poor, common, inferior.

Penny-starver (or buster). A penny roll, or bun.

Penny-wedding. Wedding banquets in Scotland, to which a number of persons were invited, each of whom paid a small sum of money not exceeding a shilling. After defraying the expenses of the feast, the residue went to the newly-married pair, to aid in furnishing their house. Abolished in 1645 (*Brewer*).

Penny-weight. A thief who devotes his attention to jewellery robberies.

Penny-white. Said of her to whom fortune has been kinder than nature (*B. E.*).

Pennyworth (or Penn'orth). One's money's-worth, a right equivalent, what's owing and more: *a good pennyworth*, a royal bargain: cf. Robin Hood's pennyworth; *to cast pennyworths*, to count the cost (1534).

Pensioner (University: Cambridge). One who pays a pension or rent for rooms in College: at Oxford a Commoner (q.v.).

Pent (The). Pentonville Prison: see Cage.

Penthouse-nab. A broad-brimmed hat: see Golgotha (1696).

Penwiper. A handkerchief: see Fogle.

People. Any sort of allies or connections — racial, parental, hired, voluntary: with or without the possessive. At Harrow, relations or visitors: I've got people coming down (1300).

Pepper. Vigorous or persistent action. As verb, (1) to chastise desperately by word or deed; (2) to pain or inconvenience or punish: as a pugilist by blows, cannon by shot, or a whore by infection; (3) violent and ardent motion: e.g. pelting rain, heavy betting, or (in skipping) when the turn of the rope is increased from a slow pace to salt (q.v.), and then to the quickest possible, or pepper (Fr., *du vinaigre*): derivatives are *pepperer*, (*a*) forcible or rigorous attack, and (*b*) a hot-tempered, active, or violent person; *peppering*, a fierce attack: as adj. (*peppering* or *peppery*), angry and *peppered*, badly hurt, or hurt to the death (see Pipped) (1589). (4) to mark in the accents of a Greek exercise. (5) To humbug, gammon (q.v.): also *to throw pepper in the eyes* (or *to use the pepper-box*). *To have* (or *take*) *pepper in the nose*, to be testy, offend quickly, get angry: Fr., *la moutarde lui monte au nez* (1362).

Pepper-and-salt. Light grey, mingled black and white: applied to fabrics (1843).

Pepper-box. A revolver. *The Pepper-boxes* (or *Castors*), domes or cupolas: specifically the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square, but applied to any dome-shaped building: cf. Boilers (1855). See Pepper.

Pepperidge. *To pay the pepperidge*, to pay one's footing (q.v.): as a school boy has to pepperidge his mates when he puts on a new suit of clothes.

Pepper's Dragoons. The Eighth Hussars.

Pepst. Drunk: see Screwed (1577).

Perambulator. A costermonger.

Perch. A high seat, resting place. *To drop* (*hop* or *fall*) *off* (or *tip over*) *the perch*, to die: see Hop the twig: (also *to perch* 1594). *To knock off the perch*, to upset, defeat, do for (q.v.).

Percher (Winchester College). A Latin cross laid horizontally against the name of an absentee on any roll.

Perfect-lady. A prostitute.

PerfectlyDemmy. Stylishly dressed.

Perform. To carry out a design (generally a dishonest one), play, work. *To perform on a flat*, to cozen a fool.

Perger. See Purger.

Pericranium (or Pericrane). The head or skull.

Perished. Starved with cold: hence, collapsed, as from fear or pain.

Perisher. 1. A short-tailed coat, jacket. 2. A consummation, extreme.

Periwinkle (or Perriwinkle). A wig: a corruption of periwig: Fr., *panoufle*, *gazon*, *boubane*.

Perks. Perquisites. *To perk up*, (1) to plume oneself, adorn (1601). (2) To recover from sickness (1696). *Board of Perks*, Board of Works.

Perkin. 1. Weak cider or perry (*Grose*). 2. Beer. [From Barclay, Perkin & Co.]

Perking. A pert, forward, silly fellow. As adj., peering, inquisitive.

Pernel. See Panel.

Pernicated. Swaggering, full of side (q.v.).

Pernickity (or **Pernicketty**). Fastidious, over-particular.

Perpendicular. A stand-up lunch, evening party where the majority of the guests stand, upright position.

Persimmon. A species of wild plum; in America as common, south of latitude 42°, as is the blackberry in England. Its fruit and hard wood are much esteemed. The huckleberry is akin to the whortleberry. Among popular phrases are: *To rake up the persimmons*, to pocket the stakes or spoils, to rake (or pull) in the pieces (q.v.); *the longest pole gets* (or *knocks*) *the most persimmons*, the best man wins, the strongest party gains the day [the persimmon tree sometimes attains to 60 ft.]; *the persimmon is above the huckleberry*, a confession of inferiority; *not a huckleberry to one's persimmon*, not comparable; *that's persimmon* (or *all persimmon*), that's fine.

Perspire. To melt away, vanish.

Persuader. 1. A pistol, revolver, spur, digger (q.v.), jemmy (q.v.) or other burglar's tool. 2. The tongue (*Grose*).

Persuading - plate. An iron disk used in forcing safes: it revolves on a pivot, and is fitted with a cutting point.

Pert. Impudent. *Pert end up*, in good spirits, cheerful.

Perthshire Greybreeks (The). The 2nd Batt. Cameronian (Scottish Rifles): formerly the 90th (Perthshire Volunteers) Regiment of Foot.

Per Usual. See Usual.

Pesky. Troublesome, plaguy. As adv., excessively.

Pester. A trouble, bother.

Pestle. 1. A constable's staff. 2. A leg: cf. Pestle of pork, long and still in vogue (1529). See Knight.

Pestle-head. A blockhead.

Pet. 1. An angry mood, tantrum, fling of temper (1548). Hence, *to be petted*, to take offence. 2. A darling: also in sarcasm. [Occasionally, a delicate young thing.] Also *peat*. As verb, to fondle (1529).

Petard. *Hoist with a petard* (or *petar*), caught in one's own trap, involved in danger meant for others (1596).

Pete Jenkins. An auxiliary clown. [The original Pete Jenkins (*c.* 1855) had a line of business (q.v.): he planted rustics in the audience, and played them thence.]

Peter. 1. A portmanteau, box, trunk, bag, or purse: generic for any parcel, bundle, or package, large or small. Whence *peter-biter* (*claimer*, or *man*), a carriage thief; *peter-drag* (*hunting*, or *lay*), robbery from vehicles of all kinds; *peter-hunting jemmy*, a small crow-bar used in smashing the chains securing luggage to a vehicle (1724). 2. A punishment cell: see Box. 3. A partridge. 4. See Peter-see-me. 5. A knavish mode of handling dice. As verb, (1) to call (in whist) for trumps by discarding an unnecessarily high card: see Blue-peter; (2) to cease word or deed, stow it (q.v.); (3) to run up prices: see Peter Funk. As intj., an oath. *To peter out*, to fail, become exhausted. *To go* (or *pass*) *through St. Peter's needle*, to be severely disciplined: of children. *To rob* (or *borrow from*) *Peter to pay* (or *clothe*) *Paul*, to take of one to give to another, manœuvre the apostles (q.v.). [John Thirleby, the first and only bishop of Westminster (1541-50), having wasted the partimony allotted by the King (Hen. VIII.) for the support of the see was translated to Norwich, and with him ended the bishopric of St. Peter's, Westminster (Haydn, *Dignities*). The lands of Westminster were so delapidated by Bishop Thirlby that there was almost nothing to support the dignity. They were invaded by the great men of the Court, and the rest laid out for reparation to the Church of St. Paul, pared almost to the very quick in those days of rapine. From hence came first that significant byeword (as is said by some) of robbing Peter to pay Paul (*Heylin*).

Peter Collins. A gentleman never to be found, on whom young aspirants are told to call. The youth is sent from roof to cellar, and, finally is generally let down a trap and left to get out as best he can. The pass-word at circuses is the green-handled rake, which the youth is requested to ask for. He is generally settled with a pill of horse-dung when they have had enough of him.

Peter Funk. 1. A decoy at a mock auction; also, at genuine but petty sales, a runner-up of prices; a puffer (q.v.). 2. The personification of petty deceit and humbug.

Peter-Grievous. A fretful child.

Peter-Gunner. An amateur gun, plasterer (q.v.) (1614).

Peter Lug. A laggard in drinking (1696).

Peter-man. 1. A fisherman: specifically those who formerly used unlawful engines in catching fish in the river Thames (1605). *Peter-boat*, a fishing-boat: specifically one built sharp, bow and stern, for quick handling. [In allusion to Math. iv. 18.] 2. See Peter.

Peter-see-me. A Spanish wine. [From Sp., Pedra Ximenes, the famous cardinal.] Also Peter, Peter-sa-mene, and Peter-semine (1617).

Petman. The smallest pig in a litter, tantony-pig (q.v.).

Petronel. *Sir Petronel Flash*, a swaggerer, penniless ruffler, boaster, braggadochio.

Petticoat. A woman: also as adj. Hence, *petticoat-affair*, a matter with a woman in it; *petticoat-government*, female home-rule; *petticoat-hold*, a life interest in a wife's estate; *petticoat-led*, infatuated of a woman 1607).

Petticoat Lane. Middlesex Street, E.: a well-known rendezvous of old-clothes dealers, mostly Jews. In Yiddish, Pilomet, the initials (in Hebrew) P. L. Also Dover Street, Piccadilly, the seat of the Court milliner.

Pettifogger. An attorney of the baser sort, sharking lawyer. Hence (generally), one given to mean or underhand practices. As verb, to conduct business in a sharp or paltry way (1576).

Petty. A scholar low in the school (1692).

Pew. A place of abode (or business), crib: see Diggings Formerly a box at a theatre: see Room.

Pew-opener's Muscle. A muscle in the palm of the hand. [*Sir Benjamin Brodie*: because it helps to contract and hollow the palm for the reception of a gratuity.]

Pewter. Generic for money: specifically prize-money: see Rhino (1842).

Pewy. Enclosed by fences so as to form small fields.

Pharaoh. 1. A corruption of faro (1732). 2. A strong ale or beer: also *Old Pharaoh* (1685). *One of Pharaoh's lean kine*, a thin, spare person: one who looks (*a*) as though he'd run away from a bone-house; or (*b*) as if he were walking about to save his funeral expenses (1598).

Pheasant. 1. A wanton. Hence *pheasantry*, a brothel. 2. See Billingsgate-pheasant.

Pheeze (Pheaze, Feaze, or Feize). To chastise (1579).

Philadelphia-catechism. The couplet:—Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thou art able, And on the seventh — holystone the decks and scrape the cable.

Philadelphia-lawyer. A smart attorney: hence, *to puzzle* (*be as smart as, beat*, or *know as much as*) *a Philadelphia-lawyer*, to be a paragon of shrewdness.

Philander. To flirt, spoon (q.v.), wanton: of both sexes. As subs. (or *philanderer*), a lover: specifically a dangler after women (1619).

Philip. A policeman. As intj., a warning. Hence, *Philiper*, a thief's accomplice.

Philip and Cheiney. Any and every one, Tom, Dick, and Harry (q.v.). (1542).

Philippi. *To meet at Philippi*, to keep an appointment without fail. [Cf. 'Julius Cæsar,' IV. iii., where the ghost of J. C. so delivers itself to Brutus.]

Philistia. The region of the unenlightened or commonplace: specifically (*Matthew Arnold*) the English middle-class — ignorant, narrow-minded, and deficient in great ideas. Whence (generally) *Philistine*, an unlettered barbarian (q.v.); a person, male or female, who has never read Matthew Arnold. [Orig. (German students'), anybody not belonging to a university.] (1857).

Philistine. 1. Generic for a representative of authority: a sheriff's officer, bailiff, revenue officer, watchman, and (in pl.) the press-gang

[Judges xvi.]. 2. A drunkard: see Lushington (1708). 3. Earwigs and such like insect tormentors (*B. E.*). 4. See Philistia.

Phiz (**Phyz**, or **Physog**). The face: see Dial (1693).

Phiz-gig. 1. An extravagantly dressed old woman, an old ewe dressed lamb-fashion. 2. A pyramid of moistened gunpowder, which, on ignition, fuses but does not flash.

Phœnix-man. Men with a phœnix for their badge, in livery, and pay from the insurance-office, to extinguish fires, covering their heads with an iron-pot, or head-piece (*B. E.*)

Physic. 1. Strong drink, medicine (q.v.), lush (q.v.). 2. Hard hitting, punishment (q.v.): also as verb. 3. Losses, wagers, points, and so forth. Also as verb.

Phyz. See Phiz.

Pi (or **Pie**). 1. Type, jumbled and mixed. [Ordinarily a compositor, when distributing type, reads a line or sentence and is enabled to return it to case with expedition: with pi, however, each stamp has to be recognised separately.] Fr., *pâté: faire du pâté*, to distribute pi; German, *zwiebelfisch* (fish with onions) (1790). 2. A miscellaneous collection of books out of the alphabet (q.v.). As adj., virtuous, sanctimonious: e.g. He's very pi now, he mugs all day; He pi-jawed me for thoking. Whence, *pi-jaw* (or *gas*), a serious admonition; *pi-man*, sim (q.v.).

Piazzas. *To walk the piazzas*, to walk the streets. [The piazzas were those in Covent Garden, only a portion of which now (1904) remain.]

Picaroon (**Pickaroon**, or **Picaro**). A rogue, shabster. As verb, to rob, prowl in quest of plunder (1617). *On the picaro*, on the make (q.v.).

Picayune. Formerly the Spanish half-real in Florida, Louisiana, etc.: now a five-cent piece or any small coin. Also (generic) money, rhino (q.v.). *Picayune* (or *picayunish*), small, mean, or little value.

Piccadil (or **Piccadillo**). 1. A stiff collar over which an ornamental fall or collar was arranged, worn first at the close of the 16th century. Perhaps the spelling piccadil was suggested by the Italian use of *Picardia* for hanging, place where persons are hanged. 2. The ornamental border of a broad collar worn by women early in 17th century (1607).

Piccadilly Butchers (The). The First Life Guards. [Having been called out to quell the Piccadilly riots in 1810.] Also The Cheeses; The Tin Bellies; and The Patent Safeties.

Piccadilly-crawl. A walk: modish, in the Eighties: cf. Alexandra limp, Grecian bend, Roman fall, etc.

Piccaninny (**Pickaninny**, **Pinkaninny**, etc.). A baby, child: specifically (modern) a child of negro parents. [Originally from pink (an endearment), small: see Piganey.] (1696).

Pick. 1. To shoot, fling (1530). 2. To pilfer, choose thievishly: also *pickeer*, but, usually, *to pick and cut* (or *to pick pockets*). As subs. (or *picking*), petty larceny: cf. (Prayer Book) Keep my hands from picking and stealing. Hence *picker* (*picker up* or *pickeerer*), (1) a petty thief; (2) in pl., the fingers. The same idea (stealthy, underhand) occurs in Pickpenny, Pickthank, Pickpurse, etc. (all of which see) (1400). Expressions more or less colloquial are: *to pick a bone* (*crow* or *matter*), to seek a quarrel: see Bone, Crow, and Pluck; *to pick up*, (1) to improve gradually: as from illness or failure; (2) to make acquaintance with, or accost: usually in disparagement of the person accosted—sharpers, street walkers, and such like pick-up flats or culls; (3) to get casually; and, generally, (4) to impose upon or take an advantage in a contract or bargain (*Bee*, 1823); *to pick flies off* (tailors'), to fault-find; *to pick out robin's eyes* (tailors'), to side-stitch black cloth or fine material; *to pick off* (general), (1) to aim with effect, and (2) to wound or kill; *to pick on*, to disturb, to nag; *to pick up*, to put in order: as a room; *to pick a bit*, to eat mincingly; *to pick and choose*, to select with discrimination; *to pick the brains* (or *mind*), to steal ideas; to plagiarise; *to pick holes* (or *a fault*), to fault-find: hence *pick-fault*, a censorious fault-finder; *to pick a quarrel*, to make offence; hence *pick-quarrel*, a cantankerous person; *to pick at*, to nag; and so forth. See also Pick-thank and Pick-purse.

Pick-a-back (**Pickback**, **Pick-a-pack**, or **Pickpack**). On the back or shoulders: as a pack (1558).

Pick-and-dab. A meal of potatoes and salt: cf. Potatoes-and-point.

Pickers. See Pick.

Picker-up (Stock Exchange). A dealer buying on quotations trickily obtained from a member trapped into giving a wrong price.

Pickle. 1. A difficult or disagreeable position, a plight. Hence, *a case of pickles*, a bad breakdown, serious quandary (1609). 2. A wag: specifically, a troublesome child: cf. 'Peregrine Pickle' (1751). Hence, *pickled*, roguish, waggish (1696). 3. In pl., specimens for dissection direct from the subject. As verb, to humbug, gammon (q.v.). *A rod in pickle*, a flogging or scolding in reserve, a revenge in lavender (1678). In the days of authority rods were pickled in urine or in brine, which elements, it was held, imparted toughness.

Pickle-herring (or **pickled-herring**). A buffoon (1602).

Pickle-jar. A coachman in yellow.

Pick-me-up. A stimulant.

Pick-penny. 1. See Pinch-fist. 2. A sharper.

Pick-pie. *To turn a pick-pie*, to make a somersault.

Pick-purse. A thief (q.v.). As adj., mercenary, fraudulent (1529).

Picksome. Fastidious, particular, given to picking and choosing.

Pick-thank. A toady: also as adj. and verb (1412).

Pickt-hatch. *To go to the manor of pickt-hatch* (or *to pickt-hatch grange*), to wanton. [The Pickt-hatch—a hatch with pikes—was a common brothel sign: specifically in Shakespeare's time a notorious tavern brothel in Turnbull St., Clerkenwell.]

Pick-tooth. Leisurely (1726).

Pick-up. A casual acquaintance, male or female. As adj., composed of what is at the moment available: as a pick-up dinner; a pick-up crew, or team: cf. Scratch and Potluck.

Pickwickian Sense. A technical or constructive sense.

Picnic. A mellay, rough-and-tumble.

Picture. A model, pattern, beau-ideal: as a picture of health, a perfect picture — child, horse, and so forth: also ironically, e.g. a pretty picture, a strange figure. *Not in the picture*, strange, inappropriate, better away, and (racing) unplaced. See also Lawful pictures.

Picture-frame. See Sheriff's picture-frame.

Picture-hat. The Gainsborough Duchess of Devonshire set a fashion in hats which women continue to wear up to the present style.

Piddle. To do languidly or to little purpose; to niggle (q.v.). Hence, *piddler*, a trifler; and *piddling*, mean, of small account, squeamish (1544).

Pie. 1. A magpie. 2. A prating gossip. *Wily-pie*, a sly rogue (1369). 3. See Pi. More or less colloquial are: —*To have a finger in the pie* (or, indeed, any matter), to meddle, to join in: cf. Boat; *to make a pie*, to combine with a view to profit; *like pie*, with zest; cf. Jam; *in spite of the pie*, obstinately (*pie*, the Book of the Offices of the Church); *not to cook any of the pie*, to abandon an enterprise, to take no further interest.

Piece. 1. A person, male or female: often in contempt. Also (of women) *piece* (or *bit*) *of mutton, muslin*, or *goods* (1290). 2. In pl., money; rhino (q.v.). [From the old Spanish pieces of eight.] (1558). *To go all to pieces*, to collapse, become exhausted, be ruined (1667). *To eat a piece*, to eat between meals: also *to piece*. See also Flesh, Muslin, Pudding, Thick, and Top.

Piece-of-entire. A jolly fellow.

Piece-out. Employment, a loan.

Pieman. 1. The one in hand at pitch-and-toss (q.v.). 2. See Pi.

Piercer. A squint-eye, one looking nine ways for Sundays (q.v.).

Piffing. See Spiff.

Piffle. Twaddle: esp. mincing, pretentious, affected twaddle. As verb, to trifle pretentiously, to twaddle with a purpose and an air. *Piffler*, an earnest futility, i.e. a person with a moral end in view, and nothing to back it but a habit of talking or writing sentimental rubbish. As verb, (1) to filch; (2) to be squeamish.

Pig. 1. An epithet of disparagement or abuse. Thus, *a dirty pig*, a person unclean in word or deed; *an old pig*, a ill-natured boor; *a learned pig*, a bombastic shallow-pate; as verb (or *to pig it*), to herd as pigs;

to pig together, to lie (or sleep) two (or more) in a bed; *piggery*, a squalid or untidy room; *pig-eyed*, small-eyed; *pig-faced*, heavy jowled; *piggish*, greedy; *pig-headed*, obstinate; *as happy as a pig in muck*, contented but filthy; *like a pig, no good alive*, selfish; *to long for pig* (or *a Bartholomew pig*) (q.v.), to show signs of, or presume upon, pregnancy; *to bleed like a pig*, to bleed copiously, like a pig under the knife; *to stare like a stuck pig*, to look fixedly or terrifically. 2. A policeman, detective: also *grunter*: see Beak. *China street pig*, a Bow Street officer. 3. In pl., The Seventy-Sixth Foot, now the 2nd Batt. West Riding Regiment. [From its badge.] Also The Immortals (q.v.) and The Old Seven and Sixpennies (q.v.). 4. A pressman: cf. Donkey. 5. Sixpence: see Bender, Hog, and Rhino. 6. (Cambridge University). See Hog. 7. An utterly spoiled garment: also Pork. Colloquial phrases are:—*A pig in a poke*, a blind bargain: Fr., *acheter chat en poche*; *to stuff a fat pig in the tail*, to give unnecessarily; *to take one's pigs* (or *hogs*) *to market*, to deal or do business; generally with *pretty, fair, fine*, or *bad*, when, a good or bad bargain, to succeed or fail; *to drive one's pigs* (or *hogs*) *to market*, to snore; *to follow like an Anthony pig*, to beg, to hang on; *to get the wrong sow by the ear* (or Am., *the wrong pig by the tail*), to make a mistake; *when pigs fly*, never: see Queen Dick; *cold pig*, (1) see *ante*; (2) goods on sale when returned; and (3, medical), a corpse, dead-meat (q.v.); *to have boiled pig at home*, to be master in one's house (an allusion to a well-known poem and story); *brandy is Latin for pig and goose*, an excuse for a dram after either; *please the pigs*, if circumstances permit, *Deo volente*; *long* (or *masked*) *pig*, human flesh: exposed openly for sale in Hayti under this name; *to teach a pig to play on a flute*, to attempt the absurd or impossible; *When a pig is proffered, hold up the poke*, never refuse a good offer; *You can't make horn of pig's tail* (see Sow's ear); *to mistake a pig for a dog*, to act stupidly; *child's pig but father's bacon*, a pretended benefit: as when a pet animal is sold; *to grease a fat pig* (or *sow*), to be insensible of a kindness.

Pig and Tinder-box. The Elephant and Castle (1821).

Pig and Whistle Light Infantry (The). The Highland Light Infantry, formerly the 71st and 74th Regiments of Foot.

Pig-eater. An endearment.

Pigeon (or Stool-pigeon). 1. A dupe; a gull (q.v.); a fly (q.v.): cf. Rook and Spider (cf. Thackeray's title, *Captain Rook and Mr. Pigeon*). As verb (or *to pluck a pigeon*, to swindle: Fr., *pigeon, dindon*, or *tordu*; Sp., *palamo* (pigeon), or *sangrado* (subject for bleeding) (1585). 2. Sharpers, who, during the drawing of the lottery, wait ready mounted near Guildhall, and, as soon as the first two or three numbers are drawn, which they receive from a confederate on a card, ride with them full speed to some distant insurance office, before fixed on, where there is another of the gang, commonly a decent-looking woman, who takes care to be at the office before the hour of drawing: to her he secretly gives the number, which she insures for a considerable sum: thus biting the biter (*Grose*). *To pigeon the news*, to send information by carrier pigeon; to run or ride with news surreptitiously obtained. 3. See Blue pigeon. 4. Business: see Pigeon English. [The Chinese pronunciation of the English word.] *Paul's pigeons*, the scholars of St. Paul's school (1662). (1) *To milk the pigeon*, to attempt impossibilities; (2) to be put to shifts for want of money. Phrases more or less colloquial are:—*Pigeon breasted*, with protruding breast; *pigeon-hearted* (or *livered*), timid; *pigeon-toed*, with turned in toes; *pigeon-wing*, (1) a late 18th century mode of dressing the side hair: now American; (2) a wig so called; and (3) a brisk step or caper in dancing, skating; *to shoot at a pigeon and kill a crow*, to blunder wilfully; *to catch two pigeons with one bean* (see Stone).

Pigeon English (or Pidgin). A jargon serving as a means of intercommunication between the Chinese and the English-speaking races all over the world: alike in Shanghai and San Francisco. [A corruption of 'business-English — business — bidginess—bidgin—pidgin—pigeon.]

Pigeon-hole. 1. An over-wide space between printed words; a rat-hole (q.v.). 2. (Winchester College). A small study. *Pigeon-hole soldiers*, clerks and orderlies.

Pigeon-pair. Twins of opposite sex. [Pigeons lay two eggs which usually hatch as a pair.]

Pigeon's-milk. An imaginary product in quest of which fools are sent: cf. Strap-oil, Squad umbrella. *To milk the pigeon*, to attempt impossibilities.

Piggot. To forge. [A reminiscence of the Parnell Commission: the expression was born in the House of Commons, 28th Feb. 1889.] Cf. Salisbury, Burke, Boycott, Maffick, etc.

Piggy-wiggy (Pigwiggin, or Piggy-whidden). A pet pig: hence, a comic endearment (see Drayton, *Nymphidia*, where it is used as the name of a kind of Puck).

Pig-poker. A swine-herd.

Pig-running. A kind of game frequently practised at fairs, wakes, etc. A large pig, whose tail is cut short, and both soaped and greased, being turned out, is hunted by the young men and boys, and becomes the property of him who can catch and hold him by the tail, above the height of his head (*Grose*).

Pigs-and-whistles. *To go to pigs-and-whistles*, to be ruined (1801).

Pig-sconce. A lout, dullard (1659).

Pig's-ear (or lug). A very large lappel collar or flap.

Pig's-foot. A short cloven crowbar, jemmy (q.v.).

Pigskin. A saddle. *Knight of the pigskin*, a jockey.

Pigsney. 1. A girl: an endearment: see Titter. 2. A woman's eye (1383).

Pig-sticker. 1. A pork-butcher. 2. A long-bladed pocket-knife. 3. A sword.

Pig-sty. 1. The press-room: see Pig. 2. A place of abode or business: see Diggings.

Pig's-whisper. 1. A grunt. 2. A very short space of time [i.e. as brief as a grunt]: also (American), *pig's-whistle*.

Pig-tail. 1. A Chinaman. 2. In pl., the shares of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China.

Pig-yoke. A quadrant (1836).

Pike. 1. A turnpike road. 2. A tramp, gipsy (also *pikey* and *piker*). As verb, to walk (also *to pike off*, and *to tip a pike*): whence *to pike on the been*, to hook it for all one's worth. *Pike-keeper* (or *pikeman*), a toll-keeper; *to bilk a pike*, to cheat a toll-gate (1500). 3. (American: Southern States). A poor white. As verb, (1) see subs., sense 1; (2) to die: also *to pike off*: see Hop the twig; (3) to play cautiously and for small stakes. Hence, *piker*, a moderate punter. *To pass the pikes*, to be out of danger (1648). *To give the pike*, to dismiss: see Bag and Sack.

Pike I (or **Prior Pike**). An assertion of prior claim or privilege; Bags or Bags I (q.v.).

Piker. 1. See Pike. 2. Wild cattle.

Pikestaff. See Plain.

Pilate-voice. A big ranting voice. [*Brewer*: In the old mysteries all tyrants were made to speak in a rough ranting manner. Thus Bottom the Weaver, after a rant to show his quality, exclaims, 'That's 'Ercles' vein, a tyrant's vein'; and Hamlet describes a ranting actor as out-heroding Herod.] (1383).

Pilch. To pilfer: see Prig (1577).

Pilcher. A scabbard. [The word is used nowhere in English save in 'Romeo and Juliet.' It seems to be a literal due to an Elizabethan comp. Perhaps Shakespeare wrote, pilch, Sir; perhaps he didn't. Anyhow pilch = a leathern coat, or overall, and was good enough business for a leathern sheath.]

Pile. A large sum of money, fortune: see Rhino. *To make one's pile*, to make a fortune; *to go the whole pile*, to stake everything (1732). *To pile on*: see Agony. *To pile in*, (1) to take part; (2) to eat. *To pile out*, to come forth.

Pilgarlick. 1. An outcast. Said originally to mean one whose skin or hair had fallen off from some disease; but now commonly used by persons speaking of themselves; as, there stood poor pill garlick; i.e. there stood I (*Grose*). 2. A person of ripe age: see Antique (1605).

Pilgrim. 1. Pilgrim and tenderfoot were formerly applied almost exclusively to newly imported cattle, but by a natural transference they are usually used to designate all new-comers, tourists, and business-men. 2. In pl., cattle on the drive.

Pilgrim's-salve. Excrement (1670).

Pill. 1. A black balloting ball: see Blackball. As verb, to reject by ballot. 2. A disagreeable or objectionable person, bore (q.v.): also of events—a bitter pill (1536). 3. A drink, go (q.v.): see Drinks. 4. A bullet: also blue-pill (q.v.). As verb, (1) see subs. 1; (2) to twaddle, talk platitudes. *The Pills*, the Royal Army Medical Corps: also The Licensed Lancers, The Poultice Wallopers; and The Linseed Lancers. Also *pills*, a doctor, surgeon. *To gild the pill*, to sweeten a bitter thing, soften a hard thing, beautify an ugly thing, explain away a sure thing, present the inevitable as though it were optional, gammon (q.v.). *To pill and poll*, to pillage and strip: specifically in modern usage (thieves'), to cheat a comrade of his regulars (q.v.): Fr., *faire l'ésgard*. *Poll-thief* (or *poller*), (1) a thief; (2) an informer (1529).

Pillar. See Post.

Pill-box. 1. A small brougham. 2. A soldier's cap. 3. A revolver or gun: also *pill-bottle*: see Meat-in-the-pot.

Pill-driver (monger, or peddler). An itinerant apothecary (1763).

Pillicock. An endearment (1598).

Pillory. A baker.

Pillow-mate. A wife.

Pill-pate. A friar, shaveling (1570).

Pi-man. See Pi.

Pimginnit. A large, red, angry pimple (*B. E.*).

Pimp. To act meanly, curry favour. *Pimping*, small, feeble, perhaps well-meaning, but in every way inconsiderable (1749).

Pimple. 1. A boon companion (1700). 2. The head: see Tibby. *Pimple-cover*, a hat: see Golgotha. *Pimple in a bent*, something very minute: cf. Knot in a rush (1582).

Pin. 1. In pl., the legs. *On one's pins*, (*a*) alive; (*b*) faring well; (*c*) in good form (1520). 2. A trifle: the lowest standard of value: also *pin-head*: cf. Button, Cent, Fig, Point, Rap, Rush, Straw (1433). 3. A measure containing four-and-a-half gallons, or the eighth part of a barrel. As verb, to steal, nab (q.v.). Phrases: *To be down pin*, to be out of sorts; *to put in the pin*, to stop, arrest, pull up: as a habit or indulgence; *to pin oneself on another*, to hang on; *to pin down* (or *to the ground*), (1) to secure, (2) to make sure, (3) to attack with no chance of escape; *pinned to a wife's tail*, petticoat-led; *to pin one's faith to* (or *upon one's sleeve*), to trust implicitly: see also Bottle, Merry-pin, Nick.

Pin-basket. The youngest child.

Pin-buttock. A bony rump: with bones like pins pricking (1598).

Pinch. 1. A dilemma, critical situation, scrape. Whence, *to come to the pinch*, to face the situation; *at a pinch*, upon a push or exigence (*B. E.*). 2. A certainty. As verb, (1) to steal: formerly, encroach little by little, appropriate (1362); (2) to arrest (1600); (3) to cut the measures of ale, beer, etc. (*B. E.*). *The pinch* (or *pinching lay*), (1) pilfering while purchasing, (2) exchanging bad money for good: ringing the changes (q.v.); *pincher* (or *pinch-gloak*), a shop-lifter; *to pinch on the parson's side*, to sharp him of his tithes; *pinched to the bone*, robbed of all. *To pinch at*, to demur, fault-find (1383). See Nab, Nick, and Shoe.

Pinchbeck. Showy, meretricious, sham. [In the 18th century Christopher Pinchbeck, a London watchmaker, invented an amalgam much used in cheap jewellery.]

Pinch-belly (back, commons, fist, guts, penny, or pincher). A miser, niggard in food (dress, or money): see Skinflint (1412).

Pinch-board. A swindling roulette table: see Pinch.

Pincher. A legislative measure calculated to secure a pecuniary reward to those interested in its rejection. See Pinch, and Pinch-belly.

Pinch-gut-money. 'Money allowed by the King to the Seamen, that Serve on Board the Navy Royal, when their Provision falls Short; also in long Voyages when they are forced to Drink Water instead of Beer' (*B. E.*).

Pinch-wife. A vigilant and churlish husband.

Pincushion. See Pin-case.

Pineapple. To close shave, county-crop, shingle (q.v.).

Pine-top. Common whisky: see Old man's milk.

Pine-tree Money. Money coined in Massachusetts in 17th century: as bearing a figure resembling a pine-tree.

Pine-tree State. Maine. [From its extensive pine forests.]

Pink. 1. A beauty. 2. A pattern or model: as a woman of fashion, a well-groomed man, the pick of the litter, a champion at sport, etc. (1595) 3. A bad report, e.g. There are several pinks against you: as verb, to give a bad account of a person or matter. 4. A hunting coat, scarlet (q.v.): also a hunting man (as wearing pink). As verb, (1) to put home a rapier's point: also as subs., a wound so made (1598); (2) to convict; as a result of perjury or cross-examination to one's prejudice; (3) to make carefully, even exquisitely; (4) to get home easily and often: as a blow (1819). *Dutch pink*, blood: cf. Claret.

Pinking-dinder. A bully, ruffian, Mohawk (q.v.).

Pink-spiders. Delirium tremens, gallon-distemper (q.v.).

Pinky. The little finger: also anything little; the smallest candle, the weakest beer, etc.

Pin-money. An allowance to a woman for pocket expenses: originally to a married woman by her husband, either by settlement or gift (1673).

Pinnace. A bawd, prostitute, woman, piece (q.v.).

Pinner (or **Pinny**). A pinafore (1672).

Pinner-up. A vendor of broad-side songs and ballads. [They are usually pinned-up on canvas against a wall.]

Pinnipe. A crab. Hence *pin-niped*, sideways; crab fashion. [The Pinnipedia are fin-footed animals.]

Pinnock. *To bring pinnock to pannock*, to bring something to nothing.

Pin-pannierly-fellow. A covetous miser that pins up his baskets or panniers, or that thinks the loss of a pin to be a pain and trouble to him.

Pins-and-needles. The tingling which accompanies the recovery of circulation in a benumbed limb.

Pin's-head. *To look for a pin's head in a cartload of hay*, to attempt the impossible. Whence, *to find a pin's head*, etc., to achieve wonders: see Bottle (1565).

Pinsrap. A parsnip.

Pint. Recommendation, praise. *Pints round!* a fine imposed upon a cutter for dropping his shears: nearly obsolete.

Pip. A spot on dice or playing cards. [A corruption of *picks*, (*O. E.*) diamond and (sometimes) spade: from old Fr., *picque*, a spade.] As verb, (1) to blackball, pill (q.v.); (2) to take a trick from an opponent. *To have* (or *get*) *the pip*, to be depressed, out of sorts: see Hump.

Pipe (or **Pipers**). 1. Generic for the vocal organs. 2. The voice: in pl., the lungs. As verb, (*a*) to talk; (*b*) to cry: also *to pipe up*, *to take a pipe*, *to tune one's pipes*, and *to pipe one's eye*; *to shut* (or *put*) *up the pipes*, to be silent. *Piper*, a broken-winded horse, roarer (q.v.) (1383). 3. In pl., the bag-pipes; *to tune one's pipes*, to talk or write. 4. A boot: see Trotter-cases (1819). As verb, see subs. 1 and 2; (3) to waylay, intercept; (4) to watch, spy: also *to pipe off*: Fr., *allumer*. *Piper*, a spy. *The Queen's pipe*, the kiln in the great East Vault of the Wine-Cellars of the London Docks, where useless and damaged goods that have paid no duty are burnt: as regards tobacco a thing of the past, stuff of this kind being distributed to workhouses, etc. *To put one's pipe out*, (1) to spoil sport or a chance, to take the shine out; (2) to kill: see Light: Fr., *casser sa pipe*. *Put that in your pipe and smoke it*, a straight rebuke, digest that if you can: Fr., *mets ça dans ta poche et ton mouchoir par dessus* (1824). *To pipe another dance*, to change one's means, or one's course of action or attack (1529). *To pipe in* (or *with*) *an ivy-leaf*, to busy oneself to no purpose (as a consolation for failure), to go whistle, blow the buck's horn. [*Ivy-leaf*, a thing of small value, as Fig, Rush, Straw, etc.] (1374).

Pipeclay. Routine, red-tape (q.v.). As verb, (1) to wipe out, settle: as accounts. (2) To hide faults of workmanship, conceal defects in material.

Pipe-layer. A political intriguer, schemer. Hence *pipe-laying*, scheming or intriguing for political purposes. [*Bartlett*: *circa* 1835, a traitorous New York Whig election agent concocted a plot to throw odium on the party, supporting it by correspondence in the form of bogus business letters relating to the Croton water supply then in progress, the number of men hired to vote being spoken of as so many yards of pipe.

Pipe-merry. Merry: as from wine (which is stored in pipes) (1564).

Piper. 1. A detective: specifically (in England) an omnibus spy: see Nark. 2. See Pipe. *Drunk as a piper*, very drunk: also *piper-fou*: see Screwed (1772). *To pay the piper* (or *fiddler*), to pay expenses, assume responsibility: Fr., *payer les violons* (1695).

Piper's-cheeks. Swollen or puffed cheeks (1608).

Piper's-news. Stale news.

Piper's-wife. A prostitute.

Piping Hot. Very hot (1383).

Pipkin. The head: see Tibby.

Pippin. *My pippin*, an endearment.

Pippin-squire. See Apple-squire.

Pirate. 1. An infringer of copyright: specifically of publishers, printsellers, and booksellers, who, without permission, appropriate the work or ideas of an author or artist; a freebooker: cf. Barabbas, Ghost, Jackal, etc. (1703). 2. In 1829 George Shillibeer introduced omnibuses into London, and . . . took care to impress upon every man he employed the importance of politeness towards all passengers. But in 1832 it was noticed that this high standard . . . was not maintained by . . . conductors of the new 'buses running from Paddington to the Bank via Oxford Street. They overcharged passengers, and met protests with abuse. Frequently, when females only were in the 'bus, they brought their journey to an end long before they reached their advertised destination, compelling the passengers to walk a considerable distance after paying their fares. . . . These were the first pirate omnibuses. To let the public know which really were his vehicles Shillibeer at once had painted on them Shillibeer's Original Omnibus. In a few days the same inscription appeared on some of the pirates with the word not in very small letters preceding it. Now (1902), thanks to police regulations and the imposition of heavy penalties, almost a thing of the past: chiefly applied, without depreciation, to any non-Company or Association vehicle.

Pishery-pashery. Gabble (1621).

Pistol. A swaggering bully: see Furioso (1596). Also see Pocket-pistol.

Pistol-shot. A drink; a go (q.v.): see Drinks and cf. Pocket-pistol.

Pit. A breast pocket in a coat: also, a fob. Hence, *pitman*, a pocket-book. *Knight of the pit*, a cocker. *To shoot* (or *fly*) *the pit*, to turn tail (1740).

Pit-a-pat. To walk lightly and quickly: as with a quick succession of sounds, to palpitate: also adj. and subs. [The same word as prittle-prattle or pittle-pattle, to chatter] (1555).

Pitch. 1. A place of sale or entertainment. 2. A performance or sale. *To pitch* (or *do a pitch*), to do business; *to queer a pitch*, to spoil a performance or a sale; to mar one's plans. 3. A short sleep, a nap. Phrases: *To pitch the hunters*, to set up the three-sticks-a-penny business; *to pitch it strong*, to exaggerate, overdo, or embroider (q.v.): *to pitch and pay*, to pay on the nail (at Blackwell Hall it was enacted that a penny be paid by the owner of every bale of cloth for pitching); *to pitch in*, (1) to take a hand; (2) to start; (3) to work hard; *to pitch into*, to attack; *to pitch a tale* (or *fork*), to tell a story, romantic, playful, or pitiful; *to pitch on*, to select at random.

Pitch-and-fill. Bill.

Pitched. Cut (q.v.).

Pitcher. 1. Newgate prison: also the *stone pitcher* (or *jug*): see Cage (1819). 2. See Snide-pitcher. *Pitchers have ears!* Listeners may overhear: also (of children) *little pitchers have long* (or *great*) *ears*, what children hear at home soon flies abroad: Fr., *ce que l'enfant oit au foyer, est bientôt connu jusqu'au Monstier* (1546). Other colloquialisms are: *To get the sheards after the pitcher is broken* (1760), to receive a kindness after others have no need for it, to get the refuse; *to bang a pitcher*, to drain a pot: see Crocus-pitcher.

Pitcher-man. A drunkard; a tickle-pitcher: see Lushington (1738).

Pitch-fingers. A pilferer: also tar-fingers (q.v.). Whence *pitch-fingered*, thievishly inclined.

Pitchfork. A tuning-fork. As verb, to thrust into a position, toss, settle carelessly.

Pitch-kettled. Puzzled, stuck fast, confounded (1785).

Pitchpole. (1) To sell for double the cost: (2) to turn a somersault.

Pitch-up (Winchester School). One's home circle, a crowd or knot of people, set of chums. Hence, *to pitch up with*, to associate with.

Pit-hole (or **Pit**). A grave. As verb, to bury (1607).

Pitman. See Pit.

Pitter-patter. To palpitate, go pit-a-pat.

Pittle-pattle. See Pit-a-pat.

Pitt's-picture. A bricked-up window. [To save Pitt's Window-tax.]

Place. 1. An abode, place of business: see Diggings. 2. A jakes, or house of ease (q.v.).

Placebo. 1. A pacifying dose. 2. A sop or placation. *To sing* (or *hunt*, or *go to the school of*) *placebo*, to be servilely complaisant, time-serving, hold with the hare and hunt with the hounds (1362).

Placer. To live in concubinage.

Plaguy (or Plaguily). Troublesome, annoying, deuced, very (1580).

Plain. Watered, neat (q.v.). *Plain as a pikestaff* (or *packstaffe*), beyond argument; *packstaff* (adj.), plain: also *plain as the nose on your face* (1546).

Plain-statement. 1. An indifferent meal, common-doings (q.v.). 2. A simple straight-forward piece of work.

Plank. See Platform. As verb, to deposit money, pay: also to *plank up* (or *down*).

Plant. 1. Plunder. 2. A swindle or robbery. 3. A decoy. 4. A place of hiding. 5. In pl., the feet. As verb, (1) to conceal; (2) to select a person or house for swindling or robbery; (3) to utter base coin; (4) in mining, to salt (q.v.); (5) to humbug; gammon (q.v.); (6) to prepare cards for unfair play; (7) to post, set, fix in position (1555); (8) to bury (*Grose*); (9) to drive the ball into another player: hence *planter*, a blow so given: specifically one delivered in the face. *In plant*, in hiding; *to spring a plant* (1) to unearth; (2) to prepare a trick by depositing an object in charge of a conscious or unconscious confederate. *To plant whids and stow them*, to be wary of speech (1610). *To plant home*, (1) to deliver (as a blow); (2) to make a point (as in argument); and (3, general) to succeed. *To water one's plants*, to shed tears: see Bib.

Plaster. To flatter.

Plasterer. An amateur gun. One who thinks nothing of the lives and eyes of the men who surround him on all sides, and blows his pheasant to a pulp before the bird is seven feet in the air (*Bromley-Davenport*).

Plate (Plate-fleet, or Family Plate). 1. Generic for money: formerly a piece of silver: also (*Halliwell*) illegal silver money: see Rhino. *To melt the plate*, to spend lavishly; *when the plate fleet comes in*, money in plenty (*B. E.*) (1586). 2. In pl., the feet: originally *plates of meat*: see Creepers. *To plate it*, to walk. Also (American thieves') *plates of meat*, a street. *Old plates*, the shares of the London and River Plate Bank. *New Plates*, shares of the English Bank of the River Plate. *To foul a plate*, to dine, sup (1785).

Platform. Formerly a plan, design, or model: now a declaration of principles or doctrines (chiefly religious and political) governing organised public action, each section or paragraph of which is called a plank. As verb, to draft or publish such a declaration of principles or doctrines.

Platter-face. A broad or flat face: also as adj.: see Dial (1696).

Plausible. Specious, persuasive (1696).

Play. *To play artful*, to feign simplicity, to keep a card or two up one's sleeve; *to play boots* (*the devil, the mischief, Ned*, etc.), to thrust, to spoil, to ruin; *to play off*, (1) to simulate, (2) to expose to merriment, (3) to make an end; *to play on* (or *upon*), to trifle with; *to play up*, (1) to do one's best, (2) to be troublesome; *to play up to*, to take one's cue from another; *played up* (or *out*), used up, ruined; *to play with one's beard*, to deceive; *to play it low*, to take advantage; *to play light*, (1) to take it easy, (2) to keep one's temper; *to play for*, to deal with generally; *to play dark*, to conceal one's character or motive; *to play the whole game*, to cheat; *to play least in sight*, to hide; *to play to the gas*, to play to small audiences; *to play to the gallery*, to rant, to gag, to use the coarsest and cheapest means; *to play it off*, to cheat; *to play the sovereign*, to flatter an inferior; *to make good play*, to work to advantage, or with execution; *to come into play*, to take one's turn, or share; *to play fair* (or *false*), to act or deal honestly (or the reverse); *to play one's cards well*, to advance one's interests; *to play into one's hands*, to advantage; *to keep* (or *hold*) *in play*, to retain control, keep things going, to engage; *to play the giddy goat*, to behave like a fool; *to play with*, to trifle; *to play upon advantage*, to cheat; *to play in and out*, to trifle; *played out*, exhausted, ruined, done for; *to play a good knife and fork* (see Knife); *to play the game*, to do honestly at whatever cost; *to play diddle-diddle*, to trick, to cajole; *to play the duck*, (1) to go contrary, against the grain: as ducks are plucked, (2) to prove a coward; *to play off one's dust*, to drink. Other proverbial sayings are: She's like a cat, she'll *play* with her tail, of a wanton; The *play* won't pay the candles (or the acting is not worth the lights), the end is not worth the means or risk; He'll *play* a small game rather than stand out, of a meddler or busybody. Also see Bear, Beard, Bob-fool, Booty, Deuce, Devil, Dickens, Ducks, Fast, Fathers-and-Mothers; Fiddle, Gooseberry, Harry, Hell, Hob, Hooky, In-and-in, In-and-out, Knife, Love, Mischief, Possum, Second fiddle, Schoolmaster, Tail, Ugly, Uptails-all, Velvet, Wag, Wagtail.

Pleb (Westminster School). A tradesman's son.

Plebe (American Collegiate). A freshman; specifically one in the lowest class at West Point. Hence, *plebeskin*, a freshman's tunic.

Pledge. A baby (1622). As verb, (Winchester School), to give away. *Pledge me*, after you; I'll *pledge* it you when I have done with it: cf. Poste te.

Plenipo. A plenipotentiary (1697).

Plier. The hand: see Daddle.

Plough. To reject in an examination: see Pluck. *To plough the deep*, to sleep. *To put the plough before the oxen*, to reverse, put the cart before the horse (1653). Proverbial phrases are:—*To plough with ass and ox*, to sort or do things ill; *to let the plough stand to catch a mouse*, to neglect weighty matters for small; *to plough the air* (or *a rock*), to attempt the absurd or impossible.

Ploughed. Drunk: see Screwed.

Plover. A wanton: cf. Partridge, Pheasant, and Grouse.

Pluck. Courage, spunk (q.v.): also *pluckiness*. Hence *plucked*, valiant: usually with good, well, rare, etc.; *hard-plucked*, hard-hearted, severe; *plucky*, bold, spiritedly, or indomitable: *pluck-less*, fainthearted. As verb, to reject at an examination. *Against the pluck*, against the inclination. *To pluck the riband*, to ring the bell. See Crow, Pigeon, Nose, Rose.

Plug. 1. A silk hat: also Plug-hat: see Golgotha. 2. A man or beast, short and thick-set: see Forty-guts. 3. A workman whose apprenticeship has been irregular; a turn-over (q.v.): specifically (in America) a craftsman who has learned his business in casual or evening classes. Such teaching is called *plug-teaching*. 4. Anything damaged or deteriorated: as an unsuccessful book, an old horse, coins bored full of holes and plugged with base metal, a shop-soiled bicycle; and so forth: also *old plug*. Hence (generally) *plug*, any defect—moral, physical, or otherwise. 5. A translation, a crib (q.v.), pony (q.v.). 6. A loafer, well-dressed or other: see Plug-ugly. As verb, to hit with a bullet.

Plug-hat. See Plug.

Plug-ugly. A Baltimore street rowdy, *circa* 1860-80. Hence any loafer or rough (q.v.).

Plum (or **Plumb**). 1. £100,000, a fortune: see Rhino. 2. A rich man. 3. A good thing, tit-bit. As adj., a general appreciative: good, desirable, exactly, quite, dexterously, thorough-going. Whence *plumb-centre*, exactly at the centre: as a plummet hangs (1667). As verb, to deceive: see Gammon: see Blue plum.

Plum-duff. Plum-dumpling, spotted-dog (q.v.).

Plump. A blow: also Plumper (1772). As adj. and adv., (1) exactly, downright, quite: as verb, to meet in more or less violent contact; *plumply* (or *plump and plain*), without reserve, roundly (1535); (2) fat, full, fleshy.

plump in the pocket, with plenty of money, warm (q.v.). As verb, (1) to record a whole- (i.e. an unsplit-) vote; whence *plumper*, (*a*) the voter, and (*b*) the vote: also (racing), to back one horse; and (general), to put all one's eggs in one basket. (2) To strike, shoot.

Plumper. 1. An unqualified falsehood. 2. A device for puffing out to smoothness the wrinkles of the cheeks: also a false bosom (1650). 3. See Plump.

Plump-currant. In good condition, in fettle, in high spirits (*Grose*).

Plum-porridge. A term of contempt: cf. Pudding-head (1634).

Plump-pate. A blockhead.

Plum-puddinger. A small whaler making short voyages. [*Century*: the crew is dieted on fresh provisions and an abundance of plum-pudding.]

Plunder. 1. Household goods, personal effects, baggage (1834). 2. Profit, makings (q.v.).

Plunge. To bet recklessly. Hence *a plunge*, a reckless bet; *plunging*, gambling for high stakes; *plunger*, a reckless gambler. [For example, the Marquis of Hastings, the first so-called. One night he played three games of draughts for £1000 a game and lost all three. He then cut for £500 a cut, and lost £5000 in less than two hours, Benzon (the Jubilee plunger) lost £250,000 in little more than twelve months.]

Plunger. 1. A cavalry man (1857). 2. See Plunge. 3. A Baptist.

Plush. At sea the overplus of the gravy, arising from its being distributed in a smaller measure than the true one; this assigned to the cook of each mess, becomes a cause of irregularity. *John Plush*, a footman; cf. Thackeray, *The Yellowplush Correspondence*, by Charles Yellowplush, Esq.

Plyer. 1. A crutch (*B. E.*). 2. A trader (*Grose*).

Plymouth (or **Dunkirk**) **cloak.** A cudgel (1602).

Poach. 1. To steal; to sneak (q.v.): see Prig. 2. In racing, to get the best of a start: esp. by unsportsmanlike methods (1531). 3. To blacken the eyes: cf. Fr., *yeux pochés au beurre noir* (1819).

Poacher. A jobber or broker who deals out of, or is continually changing, his market.

Poacher-court. The Kirk-Sessions (1796).

Pocket. 1. Money, means, resources: also *pocket-book* and *pocket-lining*. Hence, *to be in pocket*, to profit; *to be out of pocket*, to lose; *pockets to let*, penniless, broke (q.v.); *To put one's hand in one's pocket*, (1) to give money (as in charity), and (2) to spend; *to have* (or *carry*) *in one's pocket*, to control; *to pick pockets*, to steal from the person (hence *pick-pocket*, a thief from the person: cf. Pick-purse); *pocket-piece*, (1) a show coin, whence (2) anything meretricious or unreal: see Rhino (1598). As adj., small: e.g. *pocket-hercules*, a sturdy dwarf; *pocket-volume*, a portable book; *pocket-Venus* (or *piece*), a diminutive woman; *pocket-parliament*, a town-council, or debating society; *pocket-hell*, a Tartarus of one's own, a Tophit on a minor scale; and so forth. As verb, (1) to endure, submit: as to ridicule, insult, or wrong. Hence, *to pocket one's horns*, to play the wittol; *to put one's pride in one's pocket*, to suppress one's pride; *to carry one's passions in one's pocket*, to smother one's feelings; *to pocket an affront*, to submit and say nothing (1592); (2) to embezzle, steal (1851); (3) to win. *If not pleased, put hand in pocket and please yourself*, a retort on grumblers. *He plays as fair as if he'd picked your pockets*, said of rooking gamblers.

Pocket-book Dropper. See Drop-game.

Pocket-borough. A constituency in which votes are controlled by one man: theoretically, since the Reform Act of 1832, a thing of the past; *to pocket a borough*, to control votes.

Pocketed. Said of a runner so surrounded that he cannot possibly get out of the press, and push to the front.

Pocket-pistol. A wicker-covered or leather-cased flask for spirits, carried in the pocket.

Pocket-thunder. Eructation.

Pock-nook. *To come in on one's own pock-nook*, to live on one's own means.

Pock-pudding. A bag-pudding: hence, by force of metaphor, a glutton: especially an Englishman: whose appetite the Scotchman affected to despise, even as he hated and envied him for its manifold opportunities (1730).

Pod. 1. A foot: specifically of children. Hence, *to pod*, to toddle. 2. A protuberant belly; a corporation (q.v.): also *pod-belly*. Hence, *pod-bellied* (*poddy*, or *in pod*), (1) fat or stout: of men; and (2) pregnant, of women. Hence *podgy*, *puggy*, and *pudsey* (1753). 3. A louse: see Chates.

Podge. 1. A fat man or woman. 2. An epaulette (1834).

Poddy. 1. Drunk: see Screwed. 2. See Pod.

Podunk. An imaginary place: in burlesque.

Poem. A foolish appreciative: as a well-cooked dish, pretty dress, smart-cut coat, and so forth.

Poet-sucker. A budding poet: cf. Rabbit-sucker (1625).

Poet's-walk. The tea served to Upper Club, on half-holidays, in River-walk.

Poge (Pogue, or Pogh). See Poke.

Pogram. A Dissenter, formalist, puritanical starch, maw-worm, creak-shoes (q.v.).

Pogy. Drunk: see Screwed. *Pogey-aqua*, long-shore for—make the grog strong.

Point. In pl., beauties: of women or children: accepted as applied to the characteristics of animals (1370). *Possession is nine* (or *eleven*) *points of the law*, said in deprecation of any attempt to change things as they are, or to seek redress (1749). Phrases, more or less colloquial, are numerous. They mostly centre on a figurative use of point, (1) a sharp end, or (2) a small but well-defined spot: as a dot, a speck, a hole, a moment, etc. *To see* (*tell*, or *make plain*) *a point*, to understand (narrate or explicate) the drift, or application of a thing: as an argument, a narrative, a detail; *to care* (or *be worth*) *but a point*, to esteem lightly, (*point*, like Pin, Rap, Cent, etc., the smallest standard of value); *to untruss a point*, (1) to take down one's breeches, and hence (2) to ease one's bowels; *point*, a tagged lace, used of old to keep doublet and hose together; *to give point to* (or *bring a point to bear on*), to emphasise: also *to point*; *to come to the point*, to go to the root of a matter; *to boil down* (or *close*) *to a point*, (1) to condense: as a paragraph, and (2) to balance: as an account; *to stretch* (or *strain*) *a point*, to exceed a limit (*Grose*): *to make a point of* (1) to strive (or insist) to an end, and (2) to elicit a detail or make a desired impression (also *to prove one's point*); *to gain one's point*, to effect a purpose; *to stand on points*, to be punctilious; *to be at a point*, to be determined; *to come to points*, to fight: with swords; *to give points to*, (1) to have (or give) an advantage, and (2) to impart exclusive or valuable information, to tip (q.v.): also *pointers*; *at all points*, completely; *at* (or *in*) *the point*, (1) ready, and (2) in the act of; *in good point*, in good condition; *in point*, apropos; *in point of*, as regards; *point for point*, exactly; *to point*, completely; *beyond a point*, in excess; *a point in favour*, an advantage in hand; *full of point*, epigrammatic, effective; *the point of a matter*, its end or purpose; *at point Nonplus*, hard up, in Queer Street (q.v.); *at point blank*, immediately, direct. See also Cuckold's point; Potato; Spear; and V.

Pointer. See Point.

Poison. 1. Drink, tipple (q.v.). *Nominate your poison*, What will you drink? 2. Anything unpleasant. Whence, *to hate like poison*, to detest (1530).

Poisoned. Pregnant.

Poison-pated. Red-haired.

Pojam. A poem: set as an exercise: a portmanteau-word (q.v.).

Poke (Poge, Pogh, or Pogue). 1. A pocket, bag, sack, pouch, purse: generic. English synonyms: bounge, brigh, bung, busy-sack, carpet-swab, cly, cod, haddock, hoxter, kick, peter, pit, roger, (also portmanteau), roundabout, skin, sky (or skyrocket, rhyming), slash, suck. 2. Stolen property. 3. A thrust, push, dig with the fingers, a blow with the fist (*Grose*, 1785). As verb, poke has always been literary. 4. A poke-bonnet. 5. A dawdler, lazy-bones (q.v.). Colloquialisms are:—*To poke about*, (or *one's nose into*), (1) to meddle, and (2) to busy oneself aimlessly or officiously; whence *poke-nose*, a meddler, and as adj., offensively intrusive; *to poke fun*, to ridicule; *to poke bogey*, to humbug; *to buy a pig in a poke* (see Pig); *to* *poke fly* (tailors'), to show how; *to poke a smipe*, to smoke a pipe: see Marrow-skying; *to poke borak* (see Borak).

Poker. 1. A sword, cheese-toaster (q.v.) (*B. E.*). 2. A bedel (q.v). carrying a silver mace before the Vice-Chancellor; also the mace itself: also Holy-poker: frequently used as an oath. 3. A single-barrelled gun. 4. A rough fencer. 5. One that conveys coals (at Newcastle) in sacks, on horseback (*B. E.*). Other colloquial usages are: *Fore-pokers*, aces and kings at cards (*Grose*, 1785); *Old Poker*, the devil: see Skipper; *by the Holy Poker* (or *Iron*), an oath: also, *by the Holy Poker and tumbling Tom*: cf. *Poker*; *Jews-poker* (q.v.); *to chant the poker*, to exaggerate, swagger, put on side (q.v.): Fr., *se gonfler le jabot*, and *faire son lard*.

Pokerish. 1. Stiff, reserved: hence *pokerishly*. 2. Frightful: cf. Old Poker.

Poker-talk. Gossip, fireside chit-chat.

Poky (or **Poking**). Cramped, stuffy, shabby, stupid: a general depreciative: also *Poke-hole* (1771).

Pole. The weekly account for wages. As verb, to study hard. (1) *Up the pole*, in good report, goody-goody, strait-laced; (2) over-matched, in difficulty. *Like a rope dancer's pole*, lead at both ends; a saying of a stupid sluggish fellow (*Grose*).

Pole-cat. A harlot: also a general reproach (1596).

Pole-work. A long, tedious business, collar-work (q.v.).

Policeman. 1. A fly: esp. a bluebottle (q.v.), which (in turn), a constable. 2. A mean fellow, spy.

Police-nippers. Handcuffs, leg-irons: see Darby's bands.

Policy. To gamble in lottery numbers: the game consists in betting on certain numbers within the range of the lottery schemes being drawn at the noon or night drawing. Seventy-eight numbers usually make up the lottery-scheme, and the policy-player can take any three of these numbers and bet that they will be drawn, either singly, or in such combinations as he may select. The single numbers may come out anywhere in the drawing, but the combination must appear as he writes it in making his bet. He pays one dollar for the privilege of betting, and receives a written slip containing the number or numbers on which he bets. If a single number is chosen and drawn, he wins 5 dollars; two numbers constitute a saddle, and if both are drawn the player wins from 24 to 32 dollars; three numbers make a gig, and win from 150 to 225 dollars; four numbers make a horse, and win 640 dollars. A capital straddle is a bet that two numbers will be among the first three drawn, and wins 500 dollars (*M'Cabe*). *Policy-shop*, a lottery-office.

Polish. To thrash, punish (q.v.). *To polish off*, to finish out of hand, get rid of summarily: as a dinner, or an adversary (1834). *To polish* (*pick*, or *eat*), *a bone*, to make a meal (*Grose*). *To polish the King's iron with the eyebrows*, to look through the iron-grated windows of a prison (*Grose*).

Polite. See Do.

Poll (Cambridge University). 1. The ordinary examination for the B.A. degree: as distinguished from the Honours examination. 2. A student taking the pass degree without Honours: also *Poll-man* and *Poll-degree*. [Gr., *Hoi polloi*, the many.] *To go out in the poll*, to take an ordinary degree. 3. A woman: generic. 2. A prostitute. *Polly-hood*, a state of wantonness (Walpole accused the ladies of his day of polly-hood, more fond than virtuous; *to poll-up*, (*a*) to court; (*b*) to live in concubinage. 4. A wig. 5. A decoy bitch. As verb, 1. See Pill and Poll. 2. To beat distance. 3. To snub. *To poll off*, to get drunk: see Screwed.

Pollard. A counterfeit coin worth about a halfpenny, made abroad, and smuggled into England, temp. Ed. I. [Said to be named after the original maker.] (1350).

Poller. 1. See Pill and Poll. 2. A pistol.

Poll-parrot. A talkative woman: also *Poll* and *Polly*.

Pollrumptious. Restive, unruly, foolishly confident.

Polly. Apollinaris water. *To do polly*, to pick oakum, mill doll (q.v.).

Pollycon. Political economy.

Polt. A blow, stroke (*B. E.*).

Poltroon. A coward (1595).

Polty (or **Dolty**). Easy.

Pommel. See Pummel.

Pompadours (The). The late

56th Regiment of Foot, now the 2nd Batt. Essex Regiment. [Tradition relates that, when facings were changed in 1764, the crimson not wearing well, the Colonel desired blue. The authorities, however, objected, and he chose purple, a favourite colour of Madame de Pompadour, the mistress of Louis XV. of France.] Also *The Saucy Pompadours*.

Pompaginis. *Aqua pompaginis*, pure water: (1785).

Pompey's-pillar. *Pompey's pillar to a stick of sealing-wax*, a fanciful bet: cf. All Lombard Street to a China orange, and Chelsea College to a sentry-box.

Pompkin. See Pumpkin.

Pom-Pom. A quick-firing gun, of light construction, much used in South Africa, 1899-1903.

Pond (The). The sea: spec. the North Atlantic Ocean: also Herring-pond (q.v.), The big (or great) pond (q.v.); and The puddle (q.v.) (1722).

Pong. Beer: also *Pongelow* or *Pongellorum*. As verb, (1) to drink; (2) to vamp a part, or (circus), to perform; (3) to talk, gas (q.v.).

Pongo. A monkey.

Poniard (or **Ponyard).** A dagger (*B. E.*, *c.* 1698).

Ponte. Twenty shillings: see Rhino. [It., *pondo*, pound.]

Pontie. On credit, on tick (q.v.).

Pontius Pilate. A pawnbroker (*Grose*).

Pontius Pilate's Body-guard. The late 1st regiment of Foot, now The Royal Scots, the oldest regiment in the service. [When the *Régiment de Douglas*, was in the French service [1633-78], the officers disputed with the Picardy regiment about the antiquity of their corps. The Picardy men declared they were on duty on the night of the Crucifixion, when the colonel of the 1st Foot replied, 'If we had been on guard, we should not have slept at out posts.'—*Brewer*.]

Pontius Pilate's Counsellor. A briefless barrister: Fr., *avocat de Pilate*. [Who, like Pilate, can find no (just) cause.]

Ponto. New breadcrumbs kneaded into a pellet.

Pony. 1. A bailiff: spec. an officer accompanying a debtor on a day's liberty. 2. Money. As verb, *to post the pony* (or *to pony up*), to pay, settle. 3. Twenty-five pounds sterling: see Rhino (1818). 4. A translation, Bohn (q.v.), crib (q.v.): also as verb (1832). 5. A generic diminutive, prob. of turf origin: as *pony*, a very small horse, and *pony-stakes*, an insignificant event. Whence (generally) in comparison, anything of small size, stature, or value. Hence, *pony* (1) a small glass (a *pony* of ale or stout), containing a gill or (of wines and spirits) a mouthful; (2) a woman of very small stature. Also *pony-brandy*, the best brandy: as served in a pony-glass; *pony-purse*, an impromptu collection: of small contributions. The word is becoming recognised: as in *pony-saw*, *pony-engine*, and *pony-truck*. 6. A gaffing-coin (q.v.); a piece showing either two heads or two tails. Whence, *to sell the pony* (or *lady*), to toss for drinks: certain coins, say twelve, are placed one on top of another, all, save one, being turned the same way; the coins are cut, as at cards, and he who cuts the single piece has to pay, having *bought the pony*. See Jerusalem.

Poodle. A dog: in sarcasm, without reference to breed.

Poon (Winchester College). To prop a piece of furniture with a wedge (*Wrench*).

Poona. A sovereign: cf. Ponte: see Rhino.

Poona Guards. The East Yorkshires, formerly the 15th Regiment of Foot: also The Snappers.

Poont. In pl., the paps: see Dairy.

Poop. 1. A worthless creature, weakling, nincumpoop (q.v.). 2. The posteriors. 3. The face (cf. *Shakespeare*, '1 Henry IV.,' *Falstaff to Bardolph*, etc., Thou art our admiral, thou bearest the lantern in the poop, but 'tis in the nose of thee). As verb, (1) to overcome, be set down (1557). (2) To break wind.

Poop-downhaul. An imaginary rope, a seaman's jest: cf. clapping the keel athwart-ships.

Poop-ornament. An apprentice.

Poor. *To serve the poor with a thump on the back with a stone*, to shark the needy (1670).

Poor-man. 1. A heap of corn-sheaves: four set upright and one above. 2. The blade-bone of a shoulder of mutton is called in Scotland a poor man, as in some parts of England it is termed a poor knight of Windsor, in contrast, it must be presumed, to the baronial Sir Loin. A Scotch laird was once asked by an English landlord what he would have for dinner. He replied, I think I could relish a morsel of a poor man (*Scott*).

Poor Man's Oyster. A mussel.

Poor Man's Treacle. An onion (*Century*).

Poor Mouth. *To make a poor mouth,* to whine, make the worst of things.

Poor Robin. An almanack. [Robert Herrick, in the 17th century, issued a series of almanacks so called.]

Pop. 1. A father, papa: also *Poppa* and *Popper.* 2. A popular concert: as The Saturday (or Monday) Pops. 3. A club chiefly confined to Oppidans though Collegers are sometimes elected: otherwise The Eton Society for reading and debates. [Supposed to be a contraction of Popina, the rooms having been for many years over a cook-shop or confectioner's (See *Public School Word Book.*] As verb., with subs. and adv. generic for more or less quick, unexpected, and explosive action. Whence, (1) to shoot: as subs. (or *popper*), (*a*) a shop, and (*b*) a firearm: spec. a pistol, and occasionally a dagger; (2) to crack—as a whip; (3) to explode—as a hat when sat on, or a cork when drawn; as subs., (*a*) a drink which fizzes from the bottle when opened—spec. ginger-beer, but also champagne, and (*b*) the noise made in drawing a cork; (4), to rap out one's words: whence *popping,* babbling. Also, as adv., suddenly or unexpectedly. (5) To pawn, to put away: whence *pop-shop,* a pawnbroker (1823). (6) To get an advantage. Other colloquialisms, mostly with the same root-idea, are:—*To pop off saws,* to babble; *to pop upon* (*in, into, above,* or *out*), (1) to come, put, spring, or thrust suddenly into view or place, and (2) to offer abruptly; *to pop with the mouth,* to smack the lips; *to pop one out* (or *off*), to deprive, with little or no warning; *to pop off with,* to put off (or aside); *to pop the question* (or *to pop*), to offer marriage; *to pop up* (or *down*), to appear (or disappear) suddenly; *to pop off,* (1) to die (also *to pop off the hooks*: see Pop and Hook), and (2) to make a sudden exit; *to pop it on,* to increase a demand: as chance offers.

Pope. A term of contempt: e.g. What a pope of a thing! Also, *drunk as a pope,* very drunk (Benedict XII., a glutton and a wine-bibber, gave rise to the expression, *Bibamus papaliter*): see Screwed; *to be* (or *play*) *pope-holy,* to be sanctimonious; *to* play the prig (q.v.) or hypocrite; *to know no more than the pope of Rome,* to know nothing (1670). Ray also gives, If you would be a pope, you must think of nothing else. *Pope-of-Rome,* home.

Pop's-eye. The thread of fat in a leg of mutton.

Pope's- (or **Turk's-**) **head.** A round broom, of bristles or feathers, with a long handle.

Pope's-nose. A chicken's rump, parson's-nose (q.v.) (*Grose*).

Pope's-size. Short and stout.

Pop-gun. See Pot-gun.

Popinjay. A general term of contempt: specifically (1) a chatterer, and (2) a fop (1598).

Poplars (**Poppelars, Popler,** or **Paplar**). Porridge: spec. milk-porridge (1576).

Poplet (**Popelet,** or **Poppet**). 1. An endearment (1694). 2. A corpulent person (1400).

Pop-lolly. A sweetmeat: i.e. Lollipop.

Popped. Annoyed. *Popped as a hatter,* very angry.

Popper. See Pop.

Poppy-cock. Nonsense, bosh (q.v.): also *Poppy-cock racket.*

Pop-shop. See Pop.

Pop-squirt. A jackanapes.

Popsy-wopsy. A foolish endearment.

Popular. Conceited.

P.P. See Play or Pay.

Pork. 1. A pig-headed one: cf. Pig (1645). 2. A garment spoiled in cutting or making; goods returned on hand: also *pig*: cf. Cold pig. *To cry pork,* to act as undertaker's tout.

Porker. 1. A young hog (1725). 2. A Jew (1785). 3. A sword (1688).

Porkopolis. Chicago: formerly Cincinnati: cf. Cottonopolis.

Pork-pie. A hat: modish in the Sixties. [In shape resembling a pork-pie, or the Spanish toreador, fashionable in the Nineties.]

Porpoise. A stout man, forty-guts (q.v.): Fr., *Saint-Lichard*, or *Saint-Pansart*.

Porridge. *To cook the porridge*, to contrive and execute a design. See Breath.

Porridge-bowl. The stomach; the bread-basket (q.v.); see Victualling Office.

Porridge-disturber. A drive in the pit of the stomach.

Portable. Pocketable (*B. E.*).

Portage. Carriage of anything, whether by land or water (*B. E.*).

Portcullis (or **Portcullis money**). Money, of various values, *temp.* Elizabeth, struck for the East India Company (est. 1599): also *India money* [it bore a portcullis *verso*].

Porter. Hirelings to carry burthens, beasts of burthen, or else menial servants set to guard the gates in a great man's house (*B. E.*).

Porterhouse-steak. A chop from the sirloin—with upper and under cut; occasionally, but improperly, from the wing rib.

Porter's-knot. A large bob of hair, with a hanging curl: fashionable with women in the Sixties.

Portionist. See Postmaster.

Portmantle (**Portmantick**, or **Portmantua**). A corruption of portmanteau (1600).

Portmanteau-word. A made vocable packed with two or more meanings: e.g. *slithy*, lithe and slimy; *torrible*, torrid and horrible; *squarson*, squire and parson; *squirshop*, squire and bishop; [The name was Lewis Carroll's, the method Bishop Sam. Wilberforce's.] (1876).

Portrait. See Queen's pictures. *To sit for one's portrait*, to undergo an inspection by turnkeys, in order that they may know prisoners from visitors.

Portuguese Man-of-war. A nautilus.

Pos (**Poss**, or **Poz**). Positive (1708].

Pose. 1. To puzzle. 2. To posture, pretend, feign. Whence *poser* (1) an unanswerable question or argument; (2) an impostor, pretender; (3) *poser* [*apposer*, *opposer*, or *oppositor*], a bishop's examining chaplain: (in modern schools), an examiner—at Eton for King's College, and at Winchester for New College scholarships and exhibitions (1387).

Posh. 1. Money: generic, but specifically, a halfpenny or other small coin: see Rhino. 2. A dandy.

Posse Mobilitatis. The mob (*Grose*).

Possible. *Plenty of the possibles*, full pockets, warm (q.v.).

Possum. *To play possum* (or *to possum*), to feign death, counterfeit sickness, dissemble strongly: from the habit of the opossum, which throws itself on its back and feigns death on the approach of an enemy.

Possum-guts. A term of reproach.

Post. Employment, Office, Station; also an advanced or advantageous piece of ground: a pillar in the way or street (*B. E.*). As verb, (1) to reject, pluck (q.v.): also as subs.: at Eton, to put down for bad work in Collections: the penalty is a holiday-pœna or a swishing; (2) to publish: by exposing a list of nominations or defaulters: spec. (Univ.) to publish a list of those in debt for College rations; (3) to hold up to ridicule or contempt, as a coward. Whence, *to post up* (or *be well posted*), to keep one (or be) well informed; (4) to pay; (5) to raise to the rank of post-captain (1818). *From pillar to post*, hither and thither; with aimless effort or action. [Lit. from the same to the same—pillar, Lat., *columna*, post] (1340). Other colloquialisms are: *To run* (or *knock*) *the head against a post*, to go blindly; *stiff as a post*, unyielding: as a gatepost in the ground; *to talk* (or *preach*) *to a post*, to talk to deaf ears: hence *deaf as a post*, as deaf as may be; *to talk post*, to speak hastily; *post alone*, solitary; *to kiss the post* (see Kiss); *to hold up a post* (or *the wall*), to cling for support when drunk: see also Bedpost, Knight, Nick (1400).

Post-and-Rail. A wooden match; *post-and-rail tea*, ill-made tea, with floating stalks and leaves (1851).

Post-horn. The nose: also *paste-horn*: see Conk.

Postillion. *Postillion of the gospel*, a gabbling parson (*Grose*).

Postman. In the courts of exchequer, two of the most experienced barristers, called the post-man and the tub-man (from the places in which they sit), have also a precedence in motions (*Blackstone*). [The old Court of Exchequer is now merged in the High Court of Justice.]

Postmaster. An exhibitioner of Merton College: also Portionist (1853).

Postmaster General. The prime minister: who has the patronage to all posts and places (*Grose*).

Post-mortem. The examination after failure.

Post-anointer. A house painter (1785).

Post-office. *A letter in the post-office*, a flying shirt-tail.

Post-office Bible. The London Delivery Book.

Post-office Prayer-book. The Post-office Guide.

Pot. 1. A quart: the quantity contained in a pot: whence as verb, to drink: also (American) *to potate*; *potting*, boozing (q.v.); *potations* (recognised), a drinking bout; *pot-house* (or *shop*), a beer-shop, a Lush-crib (q.v.); *pot-house* (or *coffee-house*) *politician*, an ignorant, irresponsible spouter of politics; *pot-companion*, (1) a cup-comrade, and (2) an habitual drunkard: as also, *potfury* (also, drunkenness), *-knight*, *-head*, *-leach*, *-man*, *-polisher*, *-sucker*, *walloper*, *potator*, *potster*, *toss-pot*, and *rob-pot*; *pot-punishment*, compulsory tippling; *pot-quarrel*, a drunken squabble; *pot-sick* (or *-shot*), drunk; *pot-sure* (*-hardy*, or *-valiant*), emboldened by liquor: cf. Dutch courage; *pot-bellied*, fat, bloated in stomach, as from guzzling: also *pot-belly* (or *guts*), a big-bellied one; *pot-revel*, a drunken frolic; *pot-mania* (or *potomania*), dipsomania; *Sir* (or *Madam*) *Pint-pot*, a host or hostess; *pot-boy* (or *man*), a barscullion: whence *pot-boydom*. 2. A large sum; the collective amount of money staked; the pool: hence (racing), a horse backed for a large amount, a favourite; *to pot*, or *to put on the pot*, to wager large sums (1823); and *to upset the pot*, to beat the favourite (1840). 3. A prize (usually given in cups, mugs, or pots): whence *pot-hunter* (or *-fisher*), (1) a professional athlete of the baser sort—one who, of good quality, enters for events he is sure to win for the sake of the pots offered as prizes; and (2) a man who seeks a large bag (q.v.) without regard to the rules and usages of sport; also *pot-hunting*, going in for sport for profit alone (1785). 4. A person of importance, an adept: also *big pot*. 5. A steward. 6. Sixpence, *five-pot piece*, 2s. 6d. 7. In pl., North Staffordshire Railway Ordinary Stock (the Railway serves the Potteries). 8. (Winchester College). The *pot*, the Canal: *pot-cad*, a workman at the saw-mills; *pot-gates*, lock-gates; *pot-houser*, a jump into the canal from the roof of a house called *pot-house* (Mansfield). 9. A urinal. As adj., top. As verb, (1) to kill: specifically (modern) to shoot from cover: also *to pot-shot*: hence *pot-shot*, (*a*) a shot so made; (*b*) a shot made for the sake of a gag (q.v.) without regard to the rules and usages of sport; and (*c*) a shot at random, as into a flight of birds without definite aim: cf. Snipe: *to pot away*, to keep up a rain of shot; (2) to pocket a ball; (3) to take a rise out of, do (q.v.), be revenged, land (q.v.); (4) to excel, *to pot verses*, to cap them (1599). *To go to pot*, to perish, be done for: as by death, bad seasons, pecuniary difficulties, and so forth (1394): whence *go to pot!* go to the devil; go hang yourself. *Potted out*, buried. Colloquialisms are:—*A pot* (or *pitcher*) *oft sent to the well is broken at last*, the inevitable must happen: see Pitcher; *to agree like pot and kettle*, to wrangle; *as like as one pot's like another*, very like indeed; *a little pot is soon hot*, (1) a little suffices, and (2) little people (or minds) are soon angered (1696); *to make the pot boil* (or *keep the pot boiling*), (1) to provide necessaries, and (2) to keep things going: Fr. (artists'), *faire, du métier*: see Pot-boiler; *to make a pot with two ears*, to set the arms akimbo; *to put on the pot*, (1) see Pot, (2) to overcharge, (3) to exaggerate, (4) to bully, (5) to snub, or patronise (also *to put on the big pot*): see Pot, and (6), to provide the necessaries of life; *to put on the pot*, to banish, to extinguish; *to make a pot at*, to grimace; *to make pots and pans*, to spend freely, then beg (1823); *to give moonshine in a mustard-pot*, to give nothing (1670); *If you touch pot, you must touch penny*, you must pay for what you have: also see Pot-and-pan, Old Pod, Pot-shot, Pot-hat, Honey-pot, etc.

Potato. Holes in fleshings: used esp. for a heel through an undarned sock or stocking. *Small potatoes*, petty, mean, contemptible: also as adj. and subs. *The potato* (or *clean*) *potato*), the best, whitest (q.v.), tip-top: see A1. *Potatoes and point*, potatoes without salt: *point*, an imaginary seasoning, as in pointing, to bacon, cheese, anything: cf. Eat your bread and smell your cheese! (1834).

Potato-boggle. A scarecrow.

Potato-finger. A long thick finger.

Potato-trap (or **jaw**). The mouth: hence, Shut your potato-trap and give your tongue a holiday, Be silent! *To make full use of one's potato-trap*, to scold roundly. English synonyms: beak, blabber, blubber, bone-box, box of dominoes (or wories), chaffer, chirper, chops, clacker (or clack-box), clams (or clam-shells), coffee-mill, coffer, dining-room, domino-box, dribbler, dubber, East-and-south (rhyming), flatter-trap, fly-trap, gab, gan, gash, gig, gills, gin lane (or trap), gob, gobbler, gob-box, grave-yard, grog-shop, grub-trap (shop, or box), grubbery, hatchway, hopper, ivory-box, jug, kisser, kissing-trap, lung-box, maw, mizzard, moey, mouse (or mouse-trap), mug, muns, mush, muzzle, neb, prater, prattler, prattle-box, rattler, rattle-trap, rat-trap, respirator, sauce-box, sewer, sink, sluice-house (or mill), sluicery, trumpeter, yob (or yop).

Pot-belly (or **guts**). See Pot.

Pot-boiler. 1. A piece of work done for money: i.e. To boil the pot (q.v.); also as adj.: hence *pot-boiling*, and *to pot-boil*. 2. A housekeeper. 3. A rounded pebble, with marks of fire upon it, which has probably been heated for the purpose of boiling water. Pot-boilers of this kind are used by many savage peoples at the present day, and if we wished to heat water in a vessel that would not stand the fire, we should be obliged to employ a similar method (*Dawkins*).

Pot-faker. A hawker; a cheap-jack (q.v.): spec. one dealing in crockery.

Pot-gun. 1. A toy gun: *pop-gun* is a later form: see Pop. 2. A reproach (1623).

Pot-hat. Orig. a tall silk hat: sometimes a felt hat.

Potheen. Illicit whisky: also *Potsheen*.

Pot-hooks. The Seventy-seventh Foot, now the 2nd Batt. Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment). [From the resemblance of the two sevens in the old regimental number to pot-hooks.] *Pot-hooks and hangers*, (1) the elementary characters formed by children when learning to write; (2) a scrawl, bad writing; (3) shorthand.

Pot-house (The). St. Peter's College: formerly Peterhouse. See Pot.

Potion. See Bitter Pill.

Pot-hunter. See Pot and Pot-luck.

Potle-bell. *To ring the potle-bell*, to confirm a bargain by linking the little fingers of the right hand.

Pot-luck. Whatever is going in the way of food and drink, an impromptu invitation; whence, a hearty welcome: *to take pot-luck*, to take the hazard of a meal: hence *pot-hunter*, a self-invited guest (1593).

Pot-of-wine. A bribe: Fr., *pot-de-vin*.

Pot-shot. See Pot.

Pottage. See Breath, besides which there are proverbial sayings:—With cost one may make *pottage* of a joint-stool; Scald not your lips in another man's *pottage*; Like a chip in a *pottage*-pot, neither good nor harm.

Potted-fug. Potted meat.

Potter. (1) To walk aimlessly and listlessly; (2) to make a pretence of work; and (3) to dawdle: usually with *about*. Hence as subs., a saunter, slow pace: also *Potterer* (1854).

Pottery. Poetry.

Pot-walloper (**wabbler, walloner**, or **waller**). 1. The election of members here [Taunton] is by those whom they call pot-walloners—that is to say, every inhabitant, whether housekeeper or lodger, who dresses his own victuals; to make out which, several inmates or lodgers will, some little time before the election, bring out their pots, and make fires in the streets, and boil victuals in the sight of their neighbours, that their votes may not be called in question (*De Foe*): the qualification was abolished by the Reform Bill of 1832: hence *pot-walloping* (1724). 2. A scullion, kitchen-maid; and (nautical) a cook, esp. on board a whaler: also *pot-wrestler*. 3. A tap-room loafer, a spouter: esp. (theatrical) a prosser (q.v.).

Pouch (or Pouch up). 1. To pocket (1567). 2. To eat. 3. To tip, provide with money (1844).

Pouchet. A pocket (1682).

Pouch - mouth. A ranter. As adj., ranting (1600).

Poudering- (or powdering-) **tub.** The salivating cradle or pit formerly used in cases of *lues venerea*, pickling tub (1599).

Pouf. A would-be actor.

Poulderling (University). A student of the second year.

Poulterer. A thief who stole and gutted letters.

Poultice Wallah. A surgeon's assistant.

Poultice - wallopers. The Royal Army Medical Corps. Also The Licensed (or Linseed) Lancers; The Pills.

Poultry. Women-kind: generic: cf. Hen, Plover, Pheasant, Partridge, etc. *Celestial poultry*, angels.

Pounce. To thrash.

Pound. 1. A prison: see Cage. *Pounded*, imprisoned (*Grose*). As verb, to hammer (q.v.). *Pounding match*, a fight (1596). 2. To move forward, steadily and with more or less noise: generally with along, or up and down (1844). 3. To get caught (or left) in a field with no easy means of egress save a fence your horse won't take, stuck as in a pound. 4. Caught astray from propriety (*Egan*). *To pound it*, (1) to ensure or make a certainty of any thing; thus, a man will say, I'll pound it to be so; taken, probably, from the custom of laying, or rather offering ten pounds to a crown at a cock-match, in which case if no person takes this extravagant odds, the battle is at an end. This is termed pounding a cock (*Vaux*). *Poundable*, (1) certain, inevitable; (2) to wager in pounds. *To go one's pound*, to eat a thing out (the weight of a soldier's ration of bread and meat is 1 lb.). *In for pound*, committed for trial. *Shut in the parson's pound*, married, spliced (q.v.).

Poundrel. The head.

Pound-text. A parson, sky-pilot (q.v.).

Pout. A sweetheart. [O. E. *pult*, a yong henne, *Prompt. Parv.*] (1768).

Poverty-basket. A wicker cradle.

Poverty - junction (or corner). The corner of the York and Waterloo Roads, London: any Monday, between eleven and three, may be seen a hundred or more persons of both sexes waiting in the hope of obtaining engagements in music-halls or variety theatres—lion comiques, serio-comics, character comedians, in fact, every variety of music-hall artiste. In New York that portion of 14th Street, opposite the Washington Statue, is known as The Slave Market for similar reasons.

Powder. Strength, vigour, inspiration, beans (q.v.), devil (q.v.). As verb, to be all over an adversary; *to powder one's jacket*, to swinge (1664). *Powder and shot*, cost, effort, labour. *Not worth powder or shot*, not worth trouble or cost.

Powder - monkey. A boy employed to carry gunpowder from magazine to gun: Fr., *moussaillon* (1682).

Power. A large number or quantity: also *poweration*. Whence *powerful*, adj. and adv., extremely; also eloquent.

Powos (The). The Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment), formerly The 14th Foot. Also The Old and Bold; Calvert's Entire.

Pow - wow. Noise: hence (political), a noisy meeting. As verb, to take part in such: also to frolic. [From N.A. Indian pow-wow, a council.] (1825).

Poz. See Pos.

Practical - Politician. A pot-house spouter.

Practitioner. A thief (q.v.).

Prad. A horse. Hence, *Prad-cove*, a horse-dealer; *prad-napper*, a horse-thief; *the prad-lay*, the theft of bridles, saddle-bags, and the like; *prad-holder*, a bridle. English synonyms: bit of blood, Charing-cross (rhyming), crock, crocodile, daisy-kicker, (or cutter: also, an ostler), gee, gee-gee, ginger, grogham, jade, jib (or jibber), high-stepper, knacker, long-faced 'un, lunk-head, macaroni, mount, muddler, nag (naggie or naggon), ning-nang, pinto, prancer, roarer, screw, scrub, star-gazer, tit, undergraduate, weaver, whistler, wind-sucker, wobbler.

Prairie. *On the prairie*, gift-free.

Prairie - dew. Whisky: cf. Mountain-dew (Scots') (1848).

Prairie - oyster (or cocktail). A raw yolk dropped into spirits, flavoured with Worcester or cayenne, and gulped.

Prairie - schooner. An emigrant waggon.

Prairie State. Illinois.

Pram. A perambulator.

Prancer. 1. A horse: see Prad. 2. A horse - thief. Hence *prancer's-nab,* a horse's head: as a seal to a counterfeit pass; *the sign of the prancer,* The Nag's Head (1567). 3. A dancer. As verb, to dance: also *pranker* (1621). 4. A cavalry officer.

Prank. A trick (*B. E.*).

Prat. 1. Usually in pl., the buttocks or thighs (1573). As verb, to beat, swish. 2. A tinder-box (1696). 3. A trick. As verb, to go: Fr., *entauler,* and *enquiller,*

Pratie (or Praty). A potato: see Murphy (1834).

Prating (prattling- or prattle-) cheat). The tongue. *Prating* (*prattle* or *prittle - prattle*), talk, esp. gabble; *to prattle* (*prittle* or *prittle-prattle*), to chatter or clack (q.v.); *prattle - basket* (*box, prate-roast, prattler,* or *prate-apace*), a chatterbox; *prattle-broth,* tea: cf. chatter- (or scandal-) broth (q.v.); *prattling-box,* a pulpit, or hum-box (q.v.); *prattling-parlour,* a private apartment, or snuggery (q.v.); *praty,* talkative (1520).

Prayer. Common colloquial expressions are: *To say prayers,* to stumble: of horses: cf. Devotional habits; *to say prayers backwards,* to blaspheme (*Ray*); *at her last prayers,* of an old maid (*Ray*); *prayer-bones,* the knees.

Prayer-book. 1. A pack of cards. 2. A small holystone; a Bible (q.v.). See Post-office prayer-book.

Prayer - book Parade. A promenade, in fashionable places of resort, after morning service on Sundays.

Pray-pray Fashion. Imploringly (1753).

Preach. To moralise out of season, cant (q.v.): as subs., (1) a sermon; (2) canting talk. Hence, *preaching-shop,* a church (or chapel); *preachifying,* tiresome moralising; *preachy-preachy,* long-windedly moral; *preachman,* a clergyman; *preachment,* affectedly solemn cackle (1592). *To preach at Tyburn - cross,* to be hanged: see Ladder.

Precious. Worthless, great, over-nice; as *precious little,* very little; *a precious humbug,* an eminent rascal and so forth (1383).

Precisian. A stickler: spec. (17th century), a Puritan (q.v.), in depreciation. As adj., punctilious, rigidly exact (1596).

Preeze. To urinate.

Presbyteress. A priest's mistress (1563).

Presbyterian. An epithet of ridicule or contempt (1600).

Prescott. A waistcoat: also *Charley Prescott.*

Present. 1. A white spot on the finger nail: supposed to augur good fortune. 2. A baby (1749).

Presenterer. A harlot.

Preserve (old University). A collection of outstanding bills (*Grose*).

Press. A winning bet added to the original stake.

Prettify. To adorn, decorate. *Prettification,* the process of adornment; *prettified,* the fact (or condition) of being adorned.

Pretty. A generic intensive: ironical or complimentary at occasion or will (1500). *To do the* (or *talk*) *pretty,* to affect amiability or obsequiousness. See Way and Horse-breaker.

Pretty- (or Merry-) dancers. The Aurora Borealis.

Pretty-pretty. 1. A knick-knack. 2. See Pretty.

Previous. Out of season, hasty, over-zealous.

Prey. Money: see Rhino.

Prial. Three cards of a sort (at commerce, cribbage, etc.): *Double-prial,* four of a kind: whence also, of persons and things. [A corruption of *pair-royal.*]

Price. To enquire the cost of (1837). *What price* ——*?* How's that? What do *you* think? How much? What odds?

Prick. 1. A term of endearment (1540). 2. A pimple.

Prick-ears. A Roundhead. [The Puritan head-gear was a black skull-cap, drawn down tight, leaving ears exposed. *Prick-eared* (or *lugged*), a general term of contempt (1599).

Pricked. Sour, acid (*B. E.*).

Prickers. A Cavalry regiment. [That is light horsemen: cf. *prick,* to ride: e.g. A gentle knight was pricking o'er the plain.]

Pricket. A fictitious bidder, Peter Funk (q.v.), putter-up (q.v.).

Pricking Æger. See Æger.

Prick-louse (**nip-louse**, or **prick-the-louse**). A tailor (1590).

Prickmedenty (**prick-me-dainty**, or **prick-ma-dainty**). A finical person. As adj., over-precise, affected (1529).

Prick-the-garter. The manner in which countrymen are deceived by gamblers, at a game called Pricking in the Belt, or the old Nob: this is a leathern strap folded up double, and then laid upon a table: if the person who plays with a bodkin pricks into the loop of the belt, he wins, if otherwise, he loses; however, by slipping one end of the strap, the sharper can win with pleasure (*Goldsmith*): also Pitch the nob, Prick the belt (or loop), and Fast and loose.

Pride-and-pockets. Half-pay officers.

Pride-of-the-morning (The). A shower of rain.

Priest. A short bludgeon: used to administer the last rites to a landed fish. *To be one's priest*, to kill (1810). *A great priest*, a strong but ineffectual inclination to stool (*Jamieson*). *To let the priest say grace*, to marry; *priest-link'd*, married (1696). *Priest of the blue-bag*, a barrister: see Green-bag.

Priest's Niece. A cleric's illegitimate daughter, or concubine: whence No more character than a priest's niece (1663).

Prig. 1. A thief: also *prigger* and *prigman*. As verb, to steal. Whence *prigger of prauncers* (or *palfreys*), a horse-thief; *prigger of cacklers*, a poultry thief; *prig-napper*, a thief-taker; *Prince-prig* (or *Prig-star*), a King of the Gipsies, also a Top Thief, or Receiver General (*B. E.*); *to work on the prig* (or *prigging-lay*), to thieve; *to prig and buz*, to pick pockets; *priggish*, thievish; *priggery* (or *priggism*), thievery (1560). English synonyms: to angle, to annex, to bilk, to bite, to bone, to bounce, to bunco, to bust, to buz, to cabbage, to chouse, to claim, to clift, to clink-rig, to cloy (cligh or cly), to collar, to collect, to convey, to cop, to crack, to crib, to cross-fam, to curb, to cut, to dip, to dive, to drag, to draw, to ease, to fake, to filch, to file, to find, to flap, to fleece, to flimp, to fop, to fork, to fraggle, to free, to frisk, to glean, to haul, to hook, to jump, to klep, to knap, to knuckle, to lag, to lap, to lurch, to mag, to make, to maltool (or moll tool), to manarvel, to mill, to mug, to nab, to nail, to nap, to nibble, to nick, to nim, to nip, to palm, to parlor-jump, to pay with a hook, to pinch, to poach, to poll, to pug, to pull, to purchase, to ramp, to rent, to respun (tinker), to ring, to shake, to shark, to shoulder, to smouch, to smug, to snabble, to snaggle, to snake, to snam, to snap, to snatch, to sneak, to snipe, to speak, to spice, to swipe, to tool, to touch, to trot, to wolf, to work. 2. A superior person, i.e. a person esteeming himself superior; in dress, morals, social standing, anything; and behaving as such. [The connotation is one of deliberate and aggressive superiority: you must get that, or you get no prig.] Also a bore. Whence *prigdom*, *priggery*, *priggishness*, and *priggism* (1676). 3. A tinker (1567). As verb, (1) see subs.; (2) to ride (1573); (3) to haggle, cheapen: hence *prigger* and *prigging* (1512).

Prig-star. 1. See Prig. 2. A rival in love (*B. E.*).

Prim. 1. A wanton (1509). 2. A very neat or affected person (*B. E.*).

Prime. 1. Eager; more than ready. 2. Of the first quality (esp. butchers': as in prime joints, prime American, etc.). As verb, to fortify, invigorate, inspire, bring to the height of a situation; with liquor, information, counsel (1637).

Prime-cock-boy. See Princock.

Primitive. Unmixed: as spirits with water, neat (q.v.).

Primo. The chairman or master of a lodge of Buffaloes.

Prinado. A sharper (1631).

Princock (**princox**, **primcock**, or **princycock**). A pert youth. As adj., saucy, conceited. *Prime-cock-boy* (*Florio*), a freshman, a novice, a milksop, a boy new come into the world (1537).

Princod. 1. A round, plump man or woman (*Grose*). 2. A pincushion (*Grose*).

Prink (or **Princk**). To dress for show, adorn fantastically, put on airs. *Princums*, high-sniffing niceties, and fads, scruples; *Mrs. Princum Pran-*

cum, a nice, precise, formal madam; *prinker*, a jetter (q.v.) (1500).

Print. *In print*, exactly in order. *Out of print*, disordered, tumbled. *Quite in print*, formal and precise: see Talk (1621).

Printer's-devil. See Devil.

Printed - character. A pawn-ticket, mortgage-deed (q.v.).

Prioress. See Better Horse.

Priscian's - head. *To break Priscian's head*, to use bad grammar. [Lat., *diminuĕre Prisciani caput*. Priscian a famous grammarian of the 5th century] (1527).

Prittle - prattle. See Prating-cheat.

Private. *To private stitch*, to conceal the thread in stitching.

Private - business. Extra work done with a tutor (Eton College).

Privy. An outdoor cesspool (1647). See Private.

Prize - packet. A novice who pays to go on the boards.

Pro. 1. An actor: i.e. one who belongs to *The* Profession. *Pro's-Bible, The Era* newspaper; *pro's-Testament, The Sunday Times*. 2. A pro-proctor: a second in command in the proctorial police (1823).

Proboscis. The nose: see Conk.

Procession (or Procesh). 1. A matter of following. 2. A street circus parade. *To go on with the procession*, to maintain continuity; *to stand at the head of the procession*, to lead.

Proclamation. *To have one's head full of proclamations*, to be much taken up to little purpose.

Proctour. 1. 'He that will tary long, an bring a lye, when his Maister sendeth him on his errand: this is a stibber gibber knaue, that doth fayne tales (*Awdeley*). Also (2, *Halliwell*), one who collected alms for lepers, or other incapables. Also (*Kennett*) beggars of any kind.

Prodigious. Very, exceedingly, immensely: cf. Awful (1744).

Profession (The). See Pro.

Prog. Food (1696); *Dyche* (1748) a cant word for provisions, goods, or money laid up in store; *Johnson* (1755) a low word. As verb, to beg; *prog-basket*, a beggar's wallet; *prog-shop*, an eating-house (1440). As verb, to prognosticate. See Prog.

Progger (or Proggins). A proctor. *To be progged*, to be proctorised; *progging*, a proctorial discipline.

Prognostic. An artistic feeder.

Project. To play tricks, monkey (q.v.).

Prom. A promenade concert: cf. Pop.

Promoter. 1. A lawyer (1509). 2. An informer (1563): cf. Putter-on. 3. A fool-catcher.

Promoss. To talk rubbish, play the fool, gammon (q.v.).

Promotion. *On promotion*, (1) on approval; (2) unmarried.

Prompter (Merchant Taylors' School). One of the second form.

Proof. The best ale at Magdalen, Oxford.

Prop (or Property). 1. Generally in pl.: e.g. *manager's-props*, stuff for stage use; *actor's-props*, acting material provided by himself: Fr., *accessoires*. 2. A breast-pin: whence *prop-nailer*, a thief whose speciality is pins and brooches. 3. (pugilistic). A straight hit. 4. (Punch and Judy). The gallows. 5. In pl., the legs. 6. In pl., crutches (*Grose*). 7. A property-man: also *propster*. 8. In pl., the arms. As verb, to hit, knock down. *To put the prop on*, to seize an adversary's arm, and so prevent him from hitting (1851). *To kick away the prop*, to be hanged: see Ladder.

P.P. See Play or Pay.

Proper. An ironical inversion or perversion of a popular epithet of commendation and approval. *To make oneself proper*, to adorn, tittivate (q.v.).

Property. *To make property of one*, to use as a convenience, tool, or cat's-paw (1785).

Prophet. A sporting tipster.

Propster and Prop-nailer. See Prop.

Pros (Cambridge). A W.C. As adv., proper; nothing but the word prosperous offers in explanation.

Prose (Winchester). A lecture: also as verb.

Prosit. A salutation in drinking: Your health! [*Ut tibi prosit meri potio.*] Fr., *Ut!*

Pross. 1. A prostitute: also *prossy*. 2. A cadged drink. As verb (or adv., *on the pross*), (1) to spunge; (2) to instruct or break in a stage-struck youth; *prosser*, a cadger of drinks, dinners, and small monies; *Prosser's Avenue*, the Gaiety bar.

Protected-man. A merchant seaman unfit for the Royal Service and therefore free of the press-gang.

Proud. Pleased, gratified. Hence, *to do one proud*, to flatter, honour; *to do oneself proud*, to be pleased.

Prov. *On the prov*, out of work and on the Provident Fund of a trade society.

Provender. He from whom money is taken on the highway: perhaps providor or provider (*Grose*).

Provost. A garrison or other cell for prisoners whose sentences are for a week or less.

Prow. A bumpkin.

Prowl. (1) *Hugh Prowler*, a thief or highwayman; (2) *prowling* (or *prowlery*), robbery; (3) to wait for the ghost (q.v.) to walk.

Prox. A proxy: specifically a ticket or list of candidates at elections, presented to voters for their votes.

Pruff (Winchester School). Sturdy, proof against pain.

Prugge. A partner, doxy (q.v.) (1631).

Prunella. A clergyman. [Clerical gowns were largely made of this material.]

Prunes. See Stewed prunes. *To have prunes in the voice*, to speak huskily, from emotion.

Prussian - blue. A term of great endearment: after . . . Waterloo the Prussians were immensely popular, and in connection with the Loyal True Blue Club gave rise to the toasts, The True Blue and the Prussian Blue (*Brewer*).

Pry. A busybody, a peeping Tom: now Paul Pry (q.v.): from Poole's farce.

Prygge. See Prig.

Psalm-smiter. A ranting dissenter.

Pub (or **Public**). A tavern; *in the public line*, engaged as a licensed victualler (1816).

Public - buildings. *Inspector of public buildings*, (1) an idler: from choice or necessity; (2) a loafer or a man seeking work.

Public-ledger. A prostitute.

Public-man. A bankrupt (1785).

Public - patterer. A swell mobsman who pretends to be a dissenting preacher, and harangues in the open air to attract a crowd for confederates to rob.

Puck. The devil (1362).

Pucker. To talk apart or in private. *In a pucker*, anxious, agitated, angry, confused: cf. Pudder. *To pucker up*, to get angry (1751).

Pucker - water. An astringent: used to counterfeit virginity.

Puck - fist (or **Puck - foist**) A braggart. [*Nares*: equivalent to vile fungus, scum of the earth] (1601).

Pud (or **Pudsey**). A hand, fist (1823). As verb, to greet affectionately or familiarly.

Pudder. Confusion, bother: cf. Pucker. As verb, to bustle, search, dabble, potter (q.v.) (1600).

Pudding. 1. Drugged liver: used by burglars to silence house-dogs. 2. The guts (1785). *Pudding-house*, the belly; *pudding-ken*, a cook-shop; *pudding-snammer*, a cook-shop thief; *pudding-filler* (old Scots'), a glutton (1503). 3. Good luck. Colloquialisms, mostly contemptuous are:—*Pudding-bellied*, big-stomached; *pudding-faced*, fat, round, and smooth in face; *pudding-head*, a fool: whence *pudding-headed*, stupid; *pudding-heart*, a coward; *pudding-hose*, baggy-breeches; *pudding-sleeves*, (1) large baggy sleeves as in the full dress clerical gown; (2) a parson; *in pudding time*, in the nick of time, opportunely; *puddingy*, fat and round; *pudding about the heels*, slovenly, thick-ankled; *to ride post for a pudding*, to exert for little cause; *to give the crows a pudding*, (1) to hang on a jibbet, and (2) to die: see Hop the twig. Also proverbs and sayings:—The proof of the *pudding* is in the eating; Hungry dogs will eat dirty *puddings*; Cold *pudding* will settle your love; Better some of a *pudding* than none of a pie; There is no deceit in a bag-*pudding*; *Puddings* and paramours should be hastily handled; *Puddings* an' wort are hasty dirt; It would vex a dog to see a *pudding* creep; Be fair conditioned and eat bread with your *pudding* (1594).

Puddle. A term of contempt: also as adj. *Puddle-poet*, a gutter rhymster; a *puddle of* [a man, etc.], a blundering fool (1665). As verb, (1) to tipple: see Screwed; (2) to muddy, turbidize (1602). *The puddle*, (1) the Atlantic Ocean: see Big Pond, Herring-pond, and Pond; (2) in Cornwall, the English Channel.

Puddle-dock. *The Duchess* (or *Countess*) *of Puddledock,* an imaginary dignitary. [*Puddledock,* an ancient pool in Thames Street, not of the cleanest description.]

Pudsey. 1. A foot: see Creepers. 2. See Pod and Pud.

Pudgy. See Pod.

Puff. 1. A sham; an impostor. 2. False praise: also *puffing* and *puffery.* 3. A decoy (as a critic who extols a book or a play from interested motives), a mock-bidder, runner-up (q.v.) of prices at auctions, gambler's confederate, bonnet (q.v.): also *puffer.* As adj. (also *puffed*), fat. As verb (also *puff up*), to blow, bloat, fill with wind, falsehood, conceit. *Puff-worker* (American), a penny-a-liner making a speciality of theatrical paragraphs (1596). 4. The breath. *To puff and blow,* to gasp; *out of puff,* winded; *puff-guts,* a fat man, jelly-belly (q.v.). 5. Life; existence: Never in one's *puff*; *the cope of one's puff,* the copestone of one's life (1777). *To puff the glim,* to fill up the hollows . . . found above all old horses' eyes, by pricking the skin and blowing air into the loose tissues underneath.

Puffer. 1. A locomotive, *puffing-Billy.* 2. A small river tug or launch: also *puff-puff.* See Puff.

Pug. 1. An endearment. 2. A whore (1567). 3. A pugilist: also *pugil* (old). Hence *Pug's-acre,* a corner of Highgate cemetery where Tom Sayers and other pugilists lie buried (1692). 4. An upper servant. *Pug's-hole,* the housekeeper's room (1847). 5. A dog: with no reference to breed. 6. A fox (1809).

Puggard. A thief (q.v.). *Pugging,* thievish (1604).

Puke. 1. A term of contempt: cf. puker (Shrewsbury), a good-for-nothing (1847). 2. An inhabitant of the State of Missouri (*Century Dict.*). As verb, to vomit: still in use at Winchester (1600).

Puling. Sickly. *Puler,* a weakling (1608).

Pull. 1. A drink; a go (q.v.). As verb, to drink, lush (q.v.). *Puller-on,* an appetiser: of liquids only: cf. Drawer-on (1436). 2. An advantage, hold, power: e.g. *to have a pull over one,* to have at an advantage, in one's power, or under one's thumb (1500). 3. A person speaking of any intricate affair, or feat of ingenuity, which he cannot comprehend, will say, There is some *pull* at the bottom of it, that I'm not fly to (*Vaux*). 4. An attempt to extort something from another, go (q.v.) (1749). 5. Rowing exercise: also as verb, to row (1841). As verb, (1) see subs.; (2) to strike a ball from the off to the leg side of the wicket; *to take a pull,* to drive a straight ball; (3) to arrest, raid: see Nab and Cop: *pulled up,* brought before a magistrate (1785); (4) to slow a horse, while seeming to ride one's best; (5) to steal, cheat (1383). *The long pull,* in drawing malt liquors, to give excess measure in order to attract custom. Colloquialisms are:—*To pull down,* (1) to steal from shop doors; (2) to destroy, depress, endanger chances; *to pull in the pieces,* to make money: Fr., *faire son beurre*; *to pull it* (or *foot*), to decamp: see Amputate and Skedaddle; *to pull through,* to succeed, to get out of a difficulty; *to pull together,* to co-operate; *to pull up,* (1) to take to task, to arrest, to stop; (2) to exert oneself, to make a special effort; *to pull faces,* to grimace; *to pull a long face,* to look blue (q.v.); *to pull off,* to succeed; to get there (q.v.); *to pull oneself together,* to rouse oneself; to rally; *to pull* (or *draw*) *in one's horns,* to retract; to cool down (1785); *to pull down a side,* to spoil all; *to pull by the sleeve,* to remind; *to pull out* (American), (1) to chuck (q.v.); (2) (athletic), to strike to the utmost, to extend (q.v.), usually by means of a friendly pace-maker; (3) (common), to run away; (4) (tailors), to hurry, to get on with work in hand; *to pull up a Jack,* to stop a post-chaise on the highway (1819); *to pull a kite,* to be serious, to look straight (q.v.); *to pull one's* (or *draw*) *the leg,* to impose upon, to bamboozle (q.v.), to chaff (q.v.); *to pull over,* to catch, to arrest: a general verb of action, see Nab; *to pull about one's ears,* to ruin, to chastise. See Bacon, Baker, Cap, Crow, Dead horse, Devil, Foot, Horns, Longbow, Stakes, String, Vest, Wires, Wool.

Pulled-trade. Secured work.

Pullet (Poulet, or Pulley). 1. A girl of tender years. 2. A female confederate.

Pulling-time. The evening of a

fair-day, when the wenches are pulled about (old).

Pullman-pup. The Midland night Scotch train from Leeds runs in front of the London Scotch train, and is therefore nicknamed the Pullman pup.

Pully-hauly. Rough-and-tumble, Haul devil, pull baker (q.v.).

Pulpit - cuffer (drubber, drummer, smiter, or thumper). A ranting parson, a cushion-thumper (q.v.). *Pulpit-cuffing,* violent exhortation (1699).

Pulpiteers (Winchester College). An arrangement during Cloister-time of Sixth Book and Senior Part V. going up to books together . . . Middle and Junior Part taken together were called Cloisters.

Pulse. *To feel one's pulse,* to gauge opinions (views, feelings), sound (q.v.), take one's measure (q.v.).

Pummel (Pumble, or Pommel). A drubbing: amongst pugilists, a crippler (q.v.). As verb, to beat, tan (q.v.): also pum (1515).

Pump. 1. In pl., dancing shoes; as verb, to don dancing shoes (1592). 2. In pl., the eyes: see Glim (1825). 3. A public house: see Lush-crib. 4. A solemn noodle. As verb, (1) to question artfully, make one tell without knowing he's telling, sound (q.v.): hence, as subs., an indirect question: Your pump is good but the sucker's dry! a retort on an attempt to pump (1633); (2) to duck under the pump: also *to give a taste of the pump* (*B. E.*, 1696): *christened with pump water,* said of a red-faced boy or girl (1760); (3) to go breathless, wind (q.v.): *pumped out* (or *dry*), completely blown (1696): hence *pumper,* anything that pumps: as counsel, a race, a course, a spurt; (4) to vomit, cast up accounts (q.v.): (5) to steal; (6) to cry (1837).

Pump - and - Tortoises (The). The late 38th Regiment of Foot, now the 1st Batt. South Staffordshire Regiment.

Pumpkin. 1. A man or woman of Boston, America, from the number of pumpkins raised and eaten by the people of that country; *Pompkins-hive,* for Boston and its dependencies (*Grose*). 2. The head. *Some* (or *big*) *pumpkins* (or *as big as pumpkins*), a high appreciation: cf. Small potatoes.

Pumpkin-head. A fool.

Pump-sucker. A teetotaller.

Pump-thunder. A blusterer: see Furioso: also as verb.

Pum-pum. A fiddler.

Pumpwater. See Aqua and Yard.

Pun. 1. A play upon words, similar in sound but different in meaning: also as verb (*B. E.*). 2. (Harrow School). Punishment. *Pun-paper,* specially ruled paper for puns and impositions. *To pun out* (Christ's Hospital), to inform against: e.g. I'll pun out; I'll pun you out: exclusively a London expression; at Hertford, *to pun* or *pun of.*

Punch. 1. Generic for anything thick and short: as a fat child, a horse well-set and well-knit, having a short back and thin shoulders, with a broad neck, and well lined with flesh. *Punchy,* fat-bellied. *Punchiness,* stoutness of build. 2. A blow; also as verb: e.g. to punch one's head (1603). As verb, (1) to drive and brand cattle: whence *puncher* (*bull* or *cow-puncher*), a cowboy; (2) to walk; hence *to punch outsides,* to go out of doors (1780). *Cobbler's punch,* urine with a cinder in it (*Grose*).

Punchable. Old passable money, anno 1695 (*B. E.*). See Punch.

Punch-and-Judy. Lemonade.

Puncher. A pugilist. See Punch.

Punch - clod. A farm - labourer, clod-hopper.

Punch-house. A brothel (1696).

Punchy. A house of entertainment. See Punch.

Punish. A strong verb of action: thus (in boxing) to hit hard, handle severely; (in cricket), to hit freely; (general), *to punish the bottle,* to drink hard; *to punish the spread,* to eat much and heartily; and so forth. Hence *punishing,* exhausting, fatiguing; *punisher,* a glutton for work; *punishment,* a severe beating, complete exhaustion, etc. (1819).

Punk (or **Punquetto**). A harlot. As verb, to procure. Hence, *punker,* a wencher; *punkish,* meretricious (1575). As verb, (1) see subs.; (2) to puncture a tyre: also, as subs., a punctured tyre.

Punsh. See Punch.

Punt. 1. To gamble: formerly generic, but mostly confined to small or chicken stakes. *Punter,* a gambler; *punting-shop,* a hell (1700). 2. (Rugby footballers'). To kick the ball before it touches the ground. *Punt-about,* a practice-ball or game. 3. To act as decoy: also *Punter*.

Puny. 1. A freshman. 2. A student at the Inns of Court. 3. A junior. 4. A puisne judge or bencher (1548). *Punyship*, youth. As adj., weak, small (*B. E.*).

Pup. 1. A puppy (q.v.). 2. A pupil. *To sell a pup*, to swindle a greenhorn, flap a jay (q.v.).

Pupe (Harrow School). A pupil room.

Pupil-monger. A tutor: specifically at the universities (1662).

Puppy (Pup, Puppy-dog). 1. A vain or unmannerly fool, fop, coxcomb (1593). *Puppyism*, conceit or affectation; *puppyish* (or *puppily*), impertinent; *puppy-headed*, stupid. 2. A blind man: Fr., *sans-mirettes*; *sans-châsses*. As adj., blind.

Puppy-snatch. A snare, plant (q.v.) (1670).

Purchase. Plunder. As verb (or *to live on one's purchase*), to live by swindling, thieving, or blackmailing. *To get in purchase*, to beget in bastardy (1512).

Pure. 1. A mistress. *Purest-pure*, a top mistress or fine woman (*B. E.*). 2. Dogs'-dung. *Pure-finder*, a man engaged in collecting dogs'-dung from the public streets. As adj., (1) neat, unadulterated. *Pure-element*, water: see Adam's Ale (1772); (2) used intensively: cf. Prime, Exquisite, Tip-top, Stunning, No-end, Mighty, Out-and-out (1362). *The pure quill*, the best, the real thing: any person or thing of superlative quality.

Purge. Beer, swipes (q.v.).

Purger (or perger). Primarily a teetotaller, tea-pot sucker (q.v.): hence a term of contempt.

Puritan. 1. A name given in contempt (*c.* 1564-69) to clergymen and laymen who wanted a simpler, and what they considered a purer, ceremonial than was authorised: by extension, a man or woman setting up for better (esp. chaster) and more pious than their neighbours. Hence, *Puritanism*, a condition of exacerbated righteousness; unco' guidness; a habit of life beyond impeachment, strict, godly, and austere. As adj., sour, precise, malevolently and tyrannically severe: cf. *Precisian* (1567). 2. A wanton. [Probably an echo of the hypocrisy imputed to the Puritans.]

Purko. Beer. [Barclay, Perkins, and Co.]

Purl. 1. Beer infused with wormwood. 2. Beer warmed nearly to boiling point, and flavoured with gin, sugar, and ginger. *Purl-man*, a boating vendor of purl to Thames watermen (1680). 3. A dive, head foremost. As adj., thrown, spilt (q.v.), foaled (q.v.): e.g. He'll get purled at the rails. Hence (as subs.), or *purler*, a fall, a spill.

Purpose. *To as much purpose as the geese slur upon the ice* (or *as to give a goose hay*), to no purpose at all: also to no more *purpose* than to beat your heels against the ground (or wind) (*Ray*, 1670).

Purse. A sum of money: a prize, a collection, a gift. Also (generic), money, resources: see Rhino. As verb, to take purses, steal (1609). One or two colloquialisms merit notice: thus, a *light* (or *empty*) *purse*, poverty; a *long* (or *heavy*) *purse*, wealth; *sword and purse*, the military power and wealth of a nation; *to make a purse*, to amass money; *purse-proud* (or *full*), haughty, because rich (1696); *out of purse*, penniless; *purse-pinched*, poor; I've left my *purse* in my other hose (old), or on the piano, a bald excuse for not parting (q.v.). Amongst proverbs there are:—A full *purse* makes the mouth to speak; An empty *purse* fills the face with wrinkles; Ask thy *purse* what thou should'st buy; An empty *purse* and a new house make a man wise, but too late; An empty *purse* frights away friends; A friend at court is better than a penny in the *purse*.

Purse-leech. A money-grubber (1648).

Purse-milking. Spendthrift, greedy (1621).

Pursenets. Goods taken upon trust by young unthrifts at treble the value; also a little purse (*B. E.*).

Purser. A ship's storekeeper: used contemptuously as follows:—*Purser's dip* (*quart*, etc.), an under-sized candle, or quart short in measure; *purser's grin*, a hypocritical or satirical sneer: e.g. There are no half-laughs or purser's grins about me, I'm right up and down like a yard of pump water, meaning that the speaker is in earnest; *purser's-name*, a false name; *purser's-shirt on a handspike* (said of ill-fitting clothes).

Purser's-pump. 1. A syphon. 2. A bassoon (1785).

Pursy (or **Pursive**). 1. Rich. 2. Fat with well-being. 3. Short-winded.

Purting-glumpot. A sulker.

Puseum (The). The Pusey House in St. Giles Street, Oxford.

Push. 1. A crowd, assembly of any kind: e.g. (thieves'), a band of thieves; (prisons'), a gang associated in penal labour; (general), a knot or party of people, at a theatre, a church, a race-meeting, etc.: Fr., *abadie, tigne, vade, trépe* (1672). 2. A robbery, swindle. Thus, I'm in this *push!* I mean to share—an intimation from one magsman to another that he means to stand in (q.v.) (1772). 3. Enterprise, energy: also *pushery*, forwardness. Colloquialisms: *to get* (or *give*) *the push* (or *the order of the push*), to be discharged (or to reject), to be sent (or send) about one's business; *put to the push* (or *at a push*), subjected to trial, in a difficulty or dilemma (1696); *to push one's barrow*, to move on; *at push of pike*, at defiance (1696).

Pushed. 1. Drunk: see Screwed. 2. Hard-up (1827).

Pusher. 1. A canary just from the shell. 2. A woman: see Petticoat. Hence *square pusher*, a girl of good reputation. 3. A blucher boot, high-low. 4. A finger of bread: used by children with a fork or spoon when feeding.

Pushing-school. A fencing-school.

Pushing-tout. A thieves' watchman, that lies scouting in and about the City to get and bring intelligence when and where there is a Push, or Crowd of People (*Higden*).

Push-pin. See Push.

Puss. 1. Sometimes complacently used of a woman suspected of loose morals (cf. Cat): but usually a playful endearment: e.g. little puss, saucy puss, you puss, you (1583). 2. A hare, or rabbit (1821). 3. (local Woolwich: obsolete). A cadet of the Royal Military Academy. [The uniform was a short jacket with a pointed tail: *vide* old pictures at the R.A. Institution, Woolwich.]

Puss-gentleman. An effeminate (1782).

Pussy-cat. 1. A Puseyite. 2. See Puss.

Put. 1. A rustic, shallowpate: also *country put* (1688). 2. A wanton [Fr., *putain*]. 3. (Stock Exchange). An option to deliver, or not deliver, at a future day: also *put and call*. Phrases more or less colloquial merit a mention:—*To put off* (*-by* or *-on*), (1) to baffle, delay, dismiss, (2) to foist or deceive, (3) to get rid of or sell: whence *a put off* (*put-by* or *put-on*), a shift, trick, or excuse; *to put to*, to ask a question, advice, etc.: *to put down*, (1) to baffle or suppress, and (2) to enter one's name, for a speech, donation, etc.; *to put upon*, (1) to accuse, and (2) to inflict or oppress; *to be put upon* (or *on*), to be depressed, deceived, or blamed; *to put in for*, to compete; *to put two and two* (or *this and that*) *together*, to draw conclusions; *to be put up*, to be accused or pulled up (q.v.); *to be put to it*, (1) to be compelled, and (2) to be hard pressed or embarrassed (1696); *to put in one's head*, (1) to suggest, and (2) to remind; *to put out of one's head*, to forget; *to put up* (or *put it up*) *with*, (1) to submit or endure, (2) to accommodate (or be received) as a lodger or guest, (3) to nominate, and (4) to spend or bet; *to put back*, to hinder or refuse; *to put a quarrel* (or *rudeness*) *on one*, to force to anger or incivility; *to put away*, (1) to dispose of by eating (whence *put-away*, an appetite or twist (q.v.), sale, pawning, imprisonment, etc., and (2) to inform against, nark (q.v.); *to put a hand to*, (1) to begin a matter, (2) to sign or endorse a document, and (3) to steal; *to put finger in the eye*, to cry; *to put on*, to imitate, assume a character, airs, etc. (whence, *a put-on*, a trick or shift), and (4) see Put-off, supra; *to put out*, (1) to confuse or perplex, and (2) to vex; *as much as one can put in one's eye*, nothing (1696): *to put a good* (or *bad*) *face on*, to appear pleased (or the reverse); *put-up*, arranged, planned (whence *a put up job*, a concerted swindle or robbery, whence also *putter-up*); *to put about*, (1) to publish a rumour, lie, or statement, (2) to change one's tactics, and (3) to inconvenience, annoy, or embarrass; *to put through*, (1) to succeed, and (2) to swindle; *to put out* (*forth* or *off*), to set out; *to put on*, to bet: see Pot; *to put one on*, (1) to tip (q.v.), (2) to bet for another, and (3) to promise a bonus if a certain horse wins; *to put up to*, (1) to explain or impart information, and (2) to suggest or incite; *to put out*, to vex; *to put in one's motto*, (1) to enter rashly into a discussion, and (2) to lay down the law; *to stay put* (American), to remain as placed; *to put in a hole*, (1) to inconvenience, non-plus, or get the better of (see Hole), (2) to defraud (thieves': see Well), and (3) to victimise; *to put on one's mettle*, to urge; *to be put to one's trumps*, to be forced back on one's resources; *to put by*, to save; *to put* (or *lay*) *heads together*, to confer; *to put one's head in the lion's mouth*, to run into danger; *to put to the door*, to eject; *to put over* (Australian), to kill; *to put on the woman*, to shed tears; *to put a hat on a hen*, to attempt the impossible (*Ray*, 1765); *to put together with a hot needle* (or *burnt thread*), to fasten insecurely; *Put up!* Shut your mouth! (American). See also Ape, Back, Bag, Balmy, Balmy-stick, Basket, Bed, Best-leg, Boot, Business, Cart, Chair, Doctor, Double, Down, Drag, Dukes, End, Frills, Grindstone, Hand, Head, Horse, Kibosh, Light, Miller, Miller's-eye, Nail, Name, Nose, Oar, Pin, Pipe, Pot, Side, Spoke, Strong, Time-o'-day, Tongue, War-paint, Wrong-leg.

Putney. *Go to Putney on a pig!* Go to the deuce!

Putrid. A depreciative: cf. Awful, Bloody, etc.

Putter. A foot: see Creepers (1821).

Putter-on. An instigator, prompter (1601).

Puttock. 1. A whore.

Putty. 1. Money: generic: see Rhino. 2. A glazier or painter. *The putty and plaster on the Solomon knob*, an intimation that the master is coming; be silent!

Puzzle (or **Dirty-puzzle**). A slattern (1583).

Puzzle-cove (or **cause**). A lawyer (1785).

Puzzledom. Perplexity, bewilderment: also *puzzlement*. Whence, *puzzle-headed* and *puzzleheadedness* (1748).

Puzzle-headed-spoon. See Apostle-spoon.

Puzzle-text. A clergyman (1785).

Puzzling Arithmetic. A statement of the odds (1613).

Puzzling-sticks. The triangle to which culprits were tied for flagellation (1819).

Pygostole. A M.B. waistcoat (q.v.).

Q (**Cue** or **Kue**). 1. 'Halfe a farthing, so called because they set down in the Battling or Butterie Bookes in Oxford and Cambridge the letter Q for halfe a farthing, and in Oxford when they make that Cue or Q a farthing, they say, Cap my Q, and make it a farthing, thus $\overset{a}{Q}$ (*Minshen*). 2. A score (whence a reminder). 3. An item of small value. *Q in a corner*, something not seen at once, but subsequently brought to notice. See P's and Q's.

Q.H.B. or (**K.H.B.**). A worthless soldier: also *Queen's* (or *King's*) *bad bargain* (or *shilling*) (1785).

Q.T. *On the Q.T.*, on the quiet: also *on the strict Q.T.*

Qua. A prison. *Qua-keeper*, a gaoler (1798).

Quab. An unfledged bird (1628).

Quack. 1. A duck: also *quacking-cheat* and *quacker* (1567). 2. See Quacksalver. As verb, to give an new title to an old and unsaleable book. *In a quack*, in the shortest time possible: cf. Crack.

Quackle. To drink, gobble, choke (1847): provincial in England, and colloquial in America (1627).

Quacksalver (**Quacksalve**, or **Quack**). Originally a charlatan; a travelling empiric who cackled about his salves: shortened by Wycherley to *quack*, which now means any noisy, specious cheat. Also as adj. and verb (1579). *Quackery*, a professional humbug.

Quad. 1. A quadrangle. As verb (Rugby), to promenade Cloisters at calling over before a football match: also quod (q.v.) (1840). 2. A horse, a quadruped. 3. A bicycle for four.

Quædam. A harlot (1692).

Quæ - genus. A bastard; cf. *Johnny Quæ-Genus*, a character title.

Quaff. 1. To carouse (1696): also *to quaff off*. 2. To drink with gusto. *Quafftide*, the time of drinking.

Quag. Marsh-land, a quagmire (*B. E.*). As adj., untrustworthy, unsafe (1859).

Quail. A harlot: cf. Plover, Pheasant, etc. (1602).

Quail-pipe. 1. A woman's tongue (1692). 2. The throat.

Quail - pipe boots. Boots full of plaits and wrinkles: *temp.* Chas. II.; also *quill-pipes* (1602).

Quaint. Curious, neat, also strange (*B. E.*).

Quake-breach. A coward (1608).

Quaker. 1. A member of the Society of Friends. Like Puritan (q.v.), which was ultimately accepted, Quaker originated in contempt, but it has never been accepted by the Society. *Quakerdom*, the world of Quakers; *Quakerish*, prim, demure, and so forth (1664). 2. A rope or pile of excrement: Fr., *rondin* and *sentinelle*. *To bury a Quaker*, to ease the bowels; *Quaker's burying ground*, a jakes. 3. Sham wooden guns (1840). *Stewed quaker*, a remedy for colds: composed of vinegar and molasses (or honey), mixed with butter and drunk hot.

Quaker City. Philadelphia. [William Penn, its founder, belonged to the Society of Friends.]

Quaker's Bargain. A bargain Yea or Nay, a take-it-or-leave-it transaction (1697).

Quaking - cheat. 1. A calf. 2. A sheep.

Quality (The). The gentry; the upper ten (q.v.): cf. the dignity applied (*Patten*, 1548) to nobles in the army. *Quality-air*, a distinguished carriage (1599).

Qualm. A stomach-fit; also calmness (*B. E.*). *Qualmish*, 'crop-sick, queasy stomackt' (*B. E.*).

Quandary. A difficulty or doubt; a low word (*Johnson*, 1755). As verb, to hesitate, puzzle (1440).

Quantum. As much as you want or ought to have: spec. a drink; a go (q.v.). *Quantum suff.*, enough.

Quarrel. See Bread-and-Butter, Pick, Take.

Quarrel-picker. A glazier (1676).

Quarroms (Quarrome, or Quarron). The body (1567).

Quarter. A quarter dollar, twenty-five cents (1824).

Quarter-decker. An officer more remarkable for manners than seamanship. *Quarter - deckish*, punctilious.

Quartereen. A farthing: see Rhino.

Quarter - sessions Rose. A perpetual rose. [Fr., *rose de quatre saisons*.]

Quart-mania. Delirium tremens: see Gallon-distemper.

Quarto (or Mr Quarto). A publisher, bookseller: see Barabbas (1772).

Quart-pot-tea. Tea made in the bush; really the proper way to make it: a tin quart of water is set down by the fire, and when it is boiling hard a handful of tea is thrown in, and the pot instantly removed from the fire.

Quash. To annul, overthrow, extinguish; vulgarly pron. *squash* (*B. E.*).

Quashie (or Quassy). A negro; generic: see Snowball (1836).

Quat. A dwarfish person: also (occasionally) a shabster (q.v.) (1602). As verb, to ease the bowels: also to *go to quat*.

Quatch. Flat (1598).

Quatro. Four. [From the It.]

Quaver. A musician.

Quavery - wavery. Undecided (1749).

Quay. Unsafe, untrustworthy.

Quean (or Queen). 1. Primarily a woman: without regard to character or position. 2. A slut, hussy (q.v.), strumpet. *To play the quean*, to wanton (1362). *Queanry*, (1) womankind; (2) harlotry; and (3) wantonness.

Queasy. Qualmish, squeamish (1696).

Queed. The devil (1726).

Queen. *Queen Anne* (*Queen Elizabeth*, *My Lord Baldwin*—or any personage whose decease is well-known) *is dead*, a retort on stale news. *Queen Elizabeth's women*, ensigns of antiquity (1619).

Queen Anne's Fan. A sight (q.v.): see Bacon, Thumb, and Fig.

Queen Bess. The Queen of Clubs; perhaps because that Queen, history says, was of a swarthy complexion: see Ned Stokes.

Queen City. Cincinnati: also Porkopolis and The Paris of America.

Queen City of the Lakes. Buffalo.

Queen City of the Mississippi. St. Louis.

Queen Dick. Nobody. *In the reign of Queen Dick*, never; *to the tune of the life and death of Queen Dick*, no tune at all (1785). English synonyms: a Latter Lammas (see Lammas); on the Greek Kalends (q.v.); on St. Tib's Eve (see Tib's Eve); on to-morrow-come-never; in the month of five Sundays; when two Fridays (or three Sundays) come together; when Dover and Calais meet; when Dudman and Ramehead meet; when the world grows honest; when the Yellow River runs clear; on the 31st June (or some other impossible date); once in a blue moon; when two Sundays come in a week; when the devil is blind (or blind drunk); at Doomsday; one of these odd-come-shortlys; when the ducks have eaten up the dirt; when pigs fly; on St. Geoffrey's day (1691).

Queen Elizabeth. 1. See Queen Anne. 2. The street-door key.

Queen Elizabeth's pocket-pistol. A brass cannon of a prodigious length at Dover Castle (*B. E.*).

Queenite. A partizan of Queen Caroline. [The consort of George IV.] Cf. Kingite.

Queen of the Dripping-pan. A cook.

Queen's (or King's) Ale. The strongest ale brewed (1574).

Queen's Bad-bargain (or Shilling). See Q.H.B.

Queen's Bays (The). The Second Dragoon Guards, now The Bays. [The Corps were (*c.* 1767) mounted on bay horses; the other heavy regiments (except the Scots Greys) having black.]

Queen's Bus. A prison van: Black Maria (q.v.); also Her Majesty's Carriage.

Queen's (or King's) Carriage (or Cushion). An improvised seat: made by two persons crossing and clasping hands, the rider holding both bearers round the neck; as bandy-chair (q.v.) (1818).

Queen's College. See College.

Queen's (or King's) English. The English language correctly written or spoken (1593).

Queen's (or King's) Head. A postage stamp (1843).

Queen's-herb. Snuff.

Queen's (or King's) Picture or Portrait. 1. Money: generic: see Rhino. 2. A sovereign; 20s. *To draw the Queen's* (or *King's*) *picture* (or *portrait*), to coin money (1632).

Queen's (or King's) Pipe. See Pipe.

Queen's-stick. A stately person.

Queen Street. *To live in Queen Street* (or *at the sign of the Queen's head*), to be under petticoat-government (q.v.) (1785).

Queen's-woman. A soldier's trull.

Queer (Quire, or Quyer). 1. A generic depreciative: criminal, base, counterfeit, odd: cf. Rum. Later usages are (1), out of sorts or seedy (q.v.) from drink, sickness, or accident; (2) unfavourable or unpropitious; and (3) strange or cranky (q.v.): whence also *queers* (subs.), *queered*, and *queery*. Thus (old) *queer-bail*, fraudulent bail, straw-bail (q.v.) *queer-bird*, a jail-bird, a convict; *queer-bitch*, an odd, out-of-the-way fellow (*Grose*); *queer-bit* (*cole*, *money*, *paper*, *screens*, *soft*, or *queer*), base money, coin or notes (whence *queer-shover*, *to shove the queer*, to pass counterfeit money; and *queer-bit maker*, a coiner); *queer-bluffer*, a cut-throat innkeeper; *queer-booze*, poor lap, swipes (q.v.); *queer-bung*, an empty purse; *queer-checker*, a swindling box-keeper; *queer-card* (*fellow*, or *fish*), a person strange in manners or views (also, in pl., *queer-cattle*); *queer-clout*, a handkerchief not worth stealing; *queer-cole-maker*, a coiner; *queer-cole-fencer*, a receiver (or utterer) of base coin; *queer-cove*, (*bird*, *cull*, or *gill*), (1) a rogue, thief, or gaol-bird, (2) a fop, (3) a fool, and (4) a shabbily-dressed person; *queer-cuffin*, (1) a magistrate, a beak (q.v.), and (2) a churl; *queer-degen*, a poor sword; *queer-diver*, a bungling pickpocket; *queer-doxy*, (1) a jilting jade, and (2) an ill-dressed whore; *queer-drawers*, old or coarse stockings; *queer-duke*, (1) a decayed gentleman, and (2) a starveling; *queer-'em* (*queer-'un* or *queer-'um*), the gallows; *queer-fun*, a bungled trick; *queer-ken* (or *queer-ken hall*), (1) a prison, and (2) a house not worth robbing; *queer-kicks*, tattered breeches; *queer-mort*, a dirty drab, a jilting wench, a pocky whore; *queer-nab*, a shabby hat; *queer-peeper*, (1) a mirror of poor quality, and (2), in pl., squinting eyes; *queer-plunger*, a cheat working the drowning man and rescue dodge; *queer-prancer*, (1) a foundered whore, and (2) an old screw; *queer-rooster*, a police spy living among thieves; *queer-topping*, a frowsy wig; *queer-wedge*, base gold; *queer-whidding*, a scolding; *queer-gammed*, crippled; *to queer*, to spoil, to get the better of; *to be queered*, to be drunk; *to tip the queer*, to pass sentence; *to be queer to* (or *on*), (1) to rob; (2) to treat harshly; *in Queer Street*, (1) in a difficulty, (2) wrong, and (3) hard-up. 2. A term made use of by the dealers in soot, signifying a substitute imposed for the original article, inferior in point of value, 4d. per bushel (*Egan*). 3. A quiz (q.v.), look, hoax: also *queer-quish*. As verb, (1) to ridicule; (2) to distinguish, divine, spot (q.v.). *Queerer*, a quizzer (q.v.) (1790). As adj., cute, knowing, fly (q.v.) (1789). As verb, (1) see subs. 3; (2) to spoil, outwit, perplex. *To queer a pitch* (cheap Jacks and showmen), to spoil a chance of business; *to queer the noose* (or *stifler*), to cheat the hangman; *to queer fate*, to get the better of the inevitable; *to queer the ogles*, to blacken the eyes (1785). *Queer* (*fine*, *odd*, or *tight*) *as Dick's* (or *Nick's*) *hatband*, out of order or sorts, not knowing why: also *as queer as Dick's hatband that went nine times round and wouldn't meet* (1785).

Queer-roost. *To doss* (or *sleep*) *on the queer-roost*, to live as man and wife, to live tally (q.v.), dab (q.v.) it up (1800).

Quencher. A drink, go (q.v.): also *modest quencher* (1840).

Querier. A chimney-sweep soliciting custom in an irregular manner, by knocking at the doors of houses and such like.

Question. *To question a horse*, to test a horse before a race. See Pop.

Qui. *To get the qui*, to be dismissed, get a *quietus*.

Quibble. See Quip.

Quick. *Quick and nimble, more like a bear than a squirrel*, a jeer on leisurely movement (1823). See Sticks and Trigger.

Quid. 1. A sovereign, 20s.: formerly a guinea. Also in pl., generic for money: see Rhino (1696). 2. As much tobacco as a person can take between his thumb and two fore-fingers, when cut small, in order to put into his mouth to chew (*Dyche*). (1748). As verb, to chew (1785), to puzzle, embarrass. See Quip.

Quidnunc. 1. A person curious, or professing, to know everything. [Latin, What now?] (1709). 2. A politician. [Popularised by a character in Murphy's *Upholsterer* (1758).] .

Quid pro Quo. A tit for tat, Rowland for an Oliver (q.v.), an equivalent: also *quid for quod*: cf. *quip* (1565).

Quien. A dog.

Quier. See Queer.

Quiet. *On the quiet*: see Q.T. *As quiet as a wasp in one's nose*, uneasy, restless (1670).

Quietus (or **Quietus est**). A form of finality, settling blow, death, etc.: originally, a quittance or pardon (1537).

Quiff. A satisfactory result: spec. an end obtained by means not strictly conventional. As verb, to do well, jog along merrily. *To quiff in the press*, to change a breast pocket from one side to the other; *to quiff the bladder*, to conceal baldness: cf. *quiff* (military), a small flat curl on the temple.

Qui-hi. An English resident or official in Bengal.

Quill (Winchester College). To curry favour. *To be quilled*, to be pleased; *quiller* (or *quilster*), a toady (Fr., *suceur*): cf. Sucker. Phrases: *Under the quill*, under discussion: spec. in writing; *to carry a good quill*, to write well; *in a quill*, in a push; *to piss in a quill* (Irish proverb: They pissed in the same quill), to be agreed to act as one; *to piss through a quill*, to write (1594).

Quill-driver (man, monger, merchant; Brother, or Knight of the Quill) A penman — —author, journalist, clerk, or (racing) bookmaker: Fr., *rond de cuir*. *Hero of the quill*, a distinguished author; *quill-driving*, clerking; *to drive the quill*, to write (1680).

Quill-pipes. See Quail-pipe boots.

Quillet. See Quibble.

Quilt. A fat man (1598). *The Quilt*, the Union Jack: cf. Rag. As verb, to beat, tan (q.v.). *Quilting*, a rope's-ending (1785).

Quilting. A patchworking-party with a spree at the end: see Bee (1825).

Quinsey. See Hempen-squincey.

Quip. 1. A play upon words, a jesting or evasive reply, a retort. 2. A trifling critic (1696). As verb, (1) to trifle, jest, censure; (2) to criticise. Variants more or less allied in meaning and usage are conveniently grouped: e.g. *Quib*, *Quill*, *Quibble*, *Quiddle*, *Quiblet* (also, mod. Amer.: the patter between turns in negro minstrelsy), *Quidlet*, *Quillet*, *Quiblin*, and *Quidlin*; *Sir Quibble Queere* (*Quibbler*, *Quipper*, or *Quiddler*), a trifler or shatter-brain (q.v.); *quibbling* (or *quiddling*), uncertain, unsteady, mincing (of gait); *quiddifical*, triflingly (1420).

Quire. See Queer.

Quirk. An evasion, shift, quip (q.v.). *Quirkist*, shifty, quibbling (1696); *quirks and quilletts*, tricks and devices; *quirklum* (*Jamieson*: a cant term), a puzzle; *quirky*, sportively tricky (1538).

Quisby. An eccentric, queer card (q.v.) (1838). As adj. and adv., bankrupt, drunk, upset, out-of-sorts, wrong: generic for misadventure. *To do quisby*, to be idle.

Qui-tam. A solicitor. He who, i.e. he who, as much for himself as for the King, seeks a conviction, the penalty for which goes half to the informer and half to the Crown. The term would, therefore, with greater propriety, be applied to a spy than to a solicitor (*Hotten*). *Qui-tam horse*, one that will both carry and draw (*Grose*).

Quius-kius. A warning to silence.

Quiz (or **Quoz**). 1. A puzzle, jest, hoax: also *quizzification*; (2) a jesting or perplexing critic; also *quizzer*; (3) any odd-looking person or thing. As verb, to banter, puzzle, confound. Hence *quizzical* or *quizzically*), jocose or humorous; *to quizzify*, to make ridiculous (1749). 2. A weekly oral examination: also spec., notes made and passed on to another: hence *quiz-class*, *surgery-quiz*, *legal-quiz*, etc.; *quiz-master*, a tutor or coach (q.v.). As verb, (*a*) to attend; (*b*) to conduct such a class. 3. A monocular eye-glass: also *quizzing-glass*. As verb, (1) see subs.; (2) to watch, nose (q.v.), nark (q.v.).

Quockerwodger. 1. A puppet on strings. 2. A tool, agent, or *âme damnée*, a dependent.

Quod (or **Quad**). A prison. *Quodded*, imprisoned; *quod-cove*, a turnkey (1696).

Quodger. *Quo jure*, by what law.

Quodling. A fledgling, green-'un (q.v.).

Quote (or **Quot**). A quotation.

Quoz. See Quiz.

Quyer. See Queer.

R. See Three R's.

Rabbit. 1. A term of contempt: hence *rabbit-sucker* (i.e. a sucking rabbit), an innocent fool; young unthrifts taking up goods upon tick at excessive rates (*B. E.*): cf. Poet-sucker (1598). 2. A wooden drinking can: also *rabit* (*B. E.*). 3. A rowdy: also *Dead-rabbit* and *Dead-duck*. [A gang of roughs paraded New York in 1848, carrying dead rabbits and ducks as emblems of victory.] 4. An electioneering agent (or tool) working in a more or less secret and underhand fashion. 5. A horse that runs in and out (q.v.). 6. A new-born babe. *Rabbit-catcher*, a midwife (1785). As intj., Confound it! Also *odsrabbit!* and *drabbit!* Phrases: *to buy the rabbit*, to get the worst of a bargain; *fat and lean, like a rabbit* (proverbial); *to go rabbit-hunting with a dead ferret*, to undertake a business with improper or useless means (1760): also see Welsh-rabbit.

Rabbit-pie Shifter. A policeman.

Rabbit-skin (or **Cat-skin**). An academical hood. *To get one's rabbit-skin*, to win the B.A. degree. [The trimming is of rabbit's fur.]

Rabitter (Winchester College). A blow with the side of the hand on the back of the neck: as in killing a rabbit.

Rabble. Generic for confusion (*B. E.*).

Rabid-beast. A new-comer who sets up against the authority of his elders: cf. Reptile.

Rabshakle. A profligate.

Rachel. To renovate, make young again. [Madame Rachel was a notorious 'beautiful for ever' swindler.]

Rack (Winchester). 1. A chop from the neck or loin, a bone. Phrases: *To live at rack and manger,* to live on the best, gratis: *to lie at rack and manger,* (1) to live hard (*B. E.*); (2) to be in great disorder (*Grose*); *to go to rack and ruin,* to go utterly wrong; *on the rack,* (1) in a state of tension; (2) on the move, shinning round (Amer. spec. for money); *to rack off,* to relate, tell.

Rackabimus. A sudden or unexpected stroke or fall.

Rackabones (or **Rack-of-bones**). A skinny person or animal, bag of bones (q.v.), shape (q.v.).

Racket. 1. A confusion, sportive or the reverse. 2. Generic for disorder, clamour, or noisy merriment (*B. E.*); 3. Any matter or happening (1785): also, a general verb of action. Thus, *to racket about* (*round, through,* etc.), to go the round at night; *to go on the racket,* to spree (q.v.); *to raise a racket,* to make a disturbance; *What's the racket?* What's going on?; *to be in a racket,* to be part in a design; *to work the racket,* to carry on a matter: cf. Rig, Lay, etc.: whence *racket-man,* a thief (q.v.); *to stand the racket,* (1) to pay a score, and (2) to take the consequences; *without racket,* without a murmur; *to tumble to the racket,* to understand, twig (q.v.); *rackety* (or *racketty*), (1) noisy, and (2) dissipated; *racketer* (or *rackapelt*), a libertine. *To play racket,* to prove inconstant (1369).

Raclan. A married woman.

Rad. A Radical (1844).

Raddled. Drunk: see Screwed (1767).

Rafe (or **Ralph**). A pawn-ticket.

Raff and Raffle. See Riff-raff.

Raffling-shop. A lottery agent's: the article or lottery ticket was divided into shares, and cast for by a throw of the dice (1714).

Raft. 1. A whole lot. 2. A goodly number. [The rafts of lumber on American waterways are sometimes of enormous size.]

Rag. Generic: 1. in pl., clothes, old or new; 2. in sing., a tatterdemalion, ragamuffin, any one despicable and despised; and, 3. anything made out of textile stuff (as a handkerchief, shirt, undergrad's gown, newspaper, and exercise- [or examination-] paper): hence *tag-* (or *shag*) *rag-and-bobtail* (or *fag end*), one and all, the common people (1785); *tag-rag,* tattered, villainous, poor, disreputable; *rag-mannered,* violently vulgar; *raggery,* duds, esp. women's: Fr., *chiffons*; *rag-bag* (or *rag-doll*), a slattern; *rag-trade,* (1) tailoring, (2) dressmaking, and (3) the dry-goods trade in general; *rag-stabber,* a tailor, snip (q.v.); *rag-tacker,* (1) a dressmaker, (2) a coach-trimmer; *rag-sooker* (or *seeker*), an instrument attached to the end of a long pole for removing clothes-pins from the lines and afterwards dragging the released clothes over the fence; *rags-and-jags,* tatters; *to have two shirts and a rag,* to be comfortably off (1760); *to tip one's rags a gallop,* to move, depart, get out; *to get one's rag* (or *shirt*) *out,* (1) to bluster, and (2) to get angry; *to rag out,* (1) to dress, clobber up (q.v.); and (2) to show the white rag: see White Feather. 4. Bank paper (bills of exchange and so forth), soft (q.v.). Whence *rag-shop,* a bank; *rag-shop boss* (or *cove*), a banker; *rag-shop cove,* a cashier; *rag-money* (or *currency*), soft (q.v.); *to flash one's rags,* to display one's notes; *without a rag,* penniless. [In Old Cant, *rag,* a farthing: whence in pl., money (*B. E.*).] 5. A flag: spec. The Union, but also the regimental colours; *rag-carrier,* an ensign (*Grose*). 6. (*a*) The curtain; whence (*b*) a *dénouement,* i.e. a curtain, a situation on which to bring down the drop; *rags-and-sticks,* a travelling outfit. 7. *The order of the rag,* the profession of arms; *rag-fair,* kit inspection (*Grose*): see Rag-and-famish. 8. The tongue: also *red-rag,* or *red-flannel* (1696). 9. Talk, banter, abuse: as verb, (*a*) to scold; (*b*) to chaff; and (*c*—American University) to declaim or compose better than one's class-mates: see Ragtime: whence *rag-box* (or *shop*), the mouth; *rag-sauce,* (*a*) chatter, and (*b*) cheek (q.v.); *ragster,* a bully or scold; *a dish of red rag,* abuse; *to chew the rag,* (*a*) to scold, and (*b*) to sulk; *to give the red rag a holiday*, to be silent; *too much red rag*, loquacious. 10. Generic for a jollification, a drinking-bout, or (Amer. Univ.) a brilliant success in class: also *rag-time*. [In this connection *rag-rowtering*, romping.] As adj., *rag-time*, merry, lively. Whence *rag-time girl*, a sweetheart, a best girl. As verb, to divide, nap the regulars (q.v.). *The rag*, (1) The Raglan Music-hall; (2) The Rag-and-Famish (q.v.). *To take the rag off*, to surpass, overcome, take the cake (q.v.).

Ragamuffin. A tattered vagabond: also as adj. and adv., beggarly, ragged, disorderly. [Also occasionally the Devil.] Also *ragaboot*, *rag-shag*, *ragabrash*, etc. (1383).

Rag-and-famish (or **The Rag**). The Army and Navy Club.

Rag-baby. The policy advocated by Greenbackers; inflation of the currency as a panacea for financial ills (*Bartlett*).

Rage. To wanton: hence *ragerie*, wantonness; skittishness: cf. Rag, subs. 10 (1383). *The rage* (or *all the rage*), the fashion, vogue, go (q.v.) (1785).

Rag-fair. 1. A district in the parish of St. Mary, Whitechapel, near the Tower of London, where old clothes and frippery were sold. 2. See Rag, subs. 7.

Ragged. Collapsed.

Ragged-brigade. Thirteenth Hussars. Also The Green Dragoons; The Evergreens; and The Great Runaway Prestonpans.

Ragged-soph. See Soph.

Ragged Robin. A keeper's follower (New Forest).

Ragman (or **Rageman**). 1. The devil. 2. See Rigmarole (1363).

Ragout. 'A Relishing Bit, with a high Sawce' (*B. E.*).

Rags-and-bones. A miserable remnant, pell-mell of rubbish. Thus *rag-and-bone shop* (also *rag-shop*), a crapulous and tumbled room; a piggery (q.v.).

Rag-splawger (or **gorger**). A rich man; generally used in conversation to avoid direct mention of names (*Grose*): Fr., *riflard*.

Rag-water. 1. Any common spirit (*B. E.*). 2. Gin (*Grose*).

Raid. *To raid the market*, to derange prices by exciting distrust or causing a panic.

Rails. A curtain lecture: whence, *a dish of rails*, a regular jobation. *Front* (or *head*) *rails*, the teeth. See Ride.

Raillery. Drolling. *To railly*, to droll. A railleur, or droll (*B. E.*).

Railings. *To count the railings*, to go hungry: see Peckham.

Railroad. Whisky, so called because of the rapidity with which it hurries men to the end of their tether. As verb, to run a matter with all speed, rush (q.v.).

Rain. Proverbs and sayings—It never *rains* but it pours, misfortunes never come singly; If it should *rain* pottage, he would want his dish, said of a wastrel or star-gazer (q.v.). It *rains* by planets, i.e. partially; *to get out of the rain*, to absent oneself, to refrain from meddling. See also Cats-and-Dogs, Right, etc. (1749).

Rainbow. 1. A mistress. 2. A footman in livery: also *knight of the rainbow*. 3. A pattern book. [Dressed in or exhibiting variety of colour.] (1821). 4. A sovereign; *half-a-rainbow*, ten shillings: see Rhino.

Rainbow-chase. A run after a dream, wild goose chase (q.v.). [From the folk-story of the pot of gold found where the two points of a rainbow touch the earth.]

Rain-napper. An umbrella; mush (q.v.) (1823).

Rainy- (or **wet-**) **day.** Hard times; whence, *to lay up for a rainy day*, to provide against necessity or distress (1626).

Raise. An improvement in conditions (1848). As verb, to rear: of human beings, crops and cattle (1597). See Bead, Bill, Bobbery, Bristles, Cain, Dander, Dash, Dead, Devil, Hair, Hatchet, Hell, Market, Mischief, Muss, Ned, Organ, Racket, Roof, Row, Rumpus, Wind.

Raise-mountain. A braggart.

Rake (**Rakehell**, **Rakehellonian**, or **Rakeshame**). 1. A disreputable person, blackguard, esp. a libertine; one so bad as to be found only by raking hell, or one so reckless as to rake hell (*Century*); also *Rake hell* and skin the devil, and you'll not find such another (1360). As verb, to live dissolutely. Whence *rakish* (*raking*, *rakehelly*, *rakely*, or *rake-shamed*), dissolute; *rakery* (or *rakishness*), blackguardism; *rake-jakes*, a blackguard. 2. A comb: also *garden-rake.* Colloquialisms are:—*To rake and scrape,* to pinch, save, play the miser; *to rake in the pieces,* to make money in plenty; *to rake the pot,* to take the stakes: see Pot; *to carry heavy rakes,* to put on side (q.v.); to overbear; *to rake down,* to scold, to drub: also as subs. *rakedown,* a scolding, beating; *better with a rake than a fork* (*Ray*), more apt to pull in and scrape up than to give out and communicate: also *vice versa*; *lean as a rake,* as lean as may be.

Raker (or **Rake-kennel**). A scavenger: also Jack Raker (1611). *To go a raker,* to bet recklessly, plunge (q.v.). *Raker,* a heavy bet.

Rally. The rough-and-tumble work after the transformation scene in a pantomime.

Ralph. 1. A fool: also *Ralph Spooner* (1696). 2. A mischief-mongering *deus ex machinâ*: the supposed author of the tricks played on a recalcitrant member of a chapel (q.v.).

Ram. A practical joke, hoax. *The rams,* delirium tremens: see Gallon-distemper. *To ram one's face in,* to intrude, meddle.

Ramagious. Untamed, wild (*Coles*).

Rambooze (or **-buze**). See Rum.

Rambounge. A severe brush of labour . . . most probably a cant term (*Jamieson*).

Rambustious, Rambunctious, Rambumptious, Ramgumption, Ramfeezled, Ramshackle, Ramstrugenous, and similar words. See Rumgumption.

Ramcat (or **Ran-cat cove**). A man wearing furs.

Ramhead. A cuckold: hence *ramheaded* (1630).

Ramjam. A surfeit: as verb, to stuff (q.v.).

Ramjollock. To shuffle cards.

Rammaged. Drunk: see Screwed.

Rammer. The arm (1785).

Rammish. 1. Stinking, hircine, abominable to the nose: also *rammy* (1383). 2. Lustful: also *rammy* and *rammishness*; *rammaking,* wantonness and *ram-skyt,* skittish (1400).

Ramnuggar Boys (The). The 14th (The King's) Hussars. [They encountered enormous odds at the battle in question.] Also The Emperor's Chambermaids.

Ramp (see **Romp**). 1. A wanton. 2. Lascivious horseplay. As verb, to wanton; and *rampant* (or *rampish*) (1530), wanton. 3. A robbery with violence (1812). 4. A swindle. 5. A footpad. 6. A trickster: also *rampsman* and *ramper*: cf. Rush. As verb, (1) to rob with violence; (2) to blackmail; and (3) to bet against one's own horse; *ramping,* violent; *ramping-mad,* noisily drunk; *to ramp and reave,* to get by fair means or foul. 7. A hallmark. [A rampant lion forms part of the assay stamp for gold and silver.]

Rampage. To storm; also *on the rampage,* in a state of excitement, from anger, lust, violent movement, or drink. Whence *rampaging* (*rampacious,* or *rampageous*), (1) furious, hot (q.v.), wild, or outrageous: and (2) loud (q.v.): whence *rampageousness.* Also *rampager* (or *rampadgeon*) (1) a hector; (2) a vagabond; and (3) a wencher (1722).

Rampallian. A villain, hector: cf. Ramp and Rapscallion (1593).

Ram-reel. A dance of men: cf. Stag-party (1813).

Ramrod (Winchester). A ball bowled along the ground, a raymonder (q.v.).

Ramshackle. See Rumgumption.

Rance-sniffle. A mean and dastardly piece of malignity.

Randal's-man (or **Randlesman**). A green handkerchief with white spots: Jack Randal's colours: cf. Belcher, Bird's-eye fogle, etc.

Randan. 1. A boat rowed by three men, two pulling an oar each, and one a pair of sculls. 2. See Rant.

Randem- (or **Random-**) **tandem.** Three horses driven abreast: cf. Harum-scarum, Sudden death, Tandem, and Unicorn.

Randle. To punish by surrounding the victim and systematically pulling the hair.

Randy, Rand, Randan. See Rant.

Ranger. 1. A highwayman. 2. In pl., mounted troops using short arms: cf. Connaught Rangers (late 88th and 94th Regiments). 3. See Range.

Rank. 1. A generic intensive: unmitigated, utter (1465): e.g. *a rank lie,* a flat falsehood; *a rank knave,* a rogue of the first water; *a rank outsider* (see Outsider); *a rank swell,* a pink of fashion; *a rank duffer,* a downright fool; and so forth. 2. Eager, anxious, impatient [*Century*]: e.g. I was rank to get back. As verb, to cheat.

Rank-and-riches. Breeches, trousers.

Ranker. An officer risen from the ranks: cf. Gentleman-ranker.

Rank-rider. 1. A highwayman. 2. A jockey. Whence *rank-riding*, rough-riding (1612).

Rannack (or **Rannigal**). A good-for-nothing.

Rannel. A whore (1600).

Ranshackle. To pillage, ransack. [On model of ramshackle (q.v.)].

Rant. 1. To talk big, high, or boast much (*B. E.*); to storm, rave: in this sense rant has always been literary. Whence, however, many usages more or less colloquial:—*Rantan* (*randan*, *randy*, *rand*, *randy-dan*, *rant*, *ranty*, *rantan*, or *rantytan*), (1) a jollification, (2) a wenching bout, (3) the sound of a drum, and (4) a drunken frolic; also as verb (or *to go on the randan*, etc.), to go on a round of debauchery; *ranter*, (1) extravagants, unthrifts, lewd sparks, also of the family of love (*B. E.*); (2) a noisy talker, bawling singer, or ruffian; (3) a Primitive Methodist: often extended to Dissenters generally, and spec. to a sect dating from 1822, self-registered as such in the Census returns; (4) in pl., idle, drunken boistering; *ranting*, (1) in high spirits; (2) amorous; (3) extravagant; *randy* (or *ranty*), (1) a beggar, ballad singer, or tinker: espec. such as bully or menace; (2) a scold: also *randy-dandy* (or *ranty-tanty*); (3) a ramping wanton; (4) see Rantan, *supra*; as adj, (1) vagrant; (2) thieving, shrewish; (3) wanton; as verb, (1) see *rantan, supra*; and (2) to beat continuously, as a tinker; *rantipole*, (1) a whore, and (2) a romp (q.v.), a gallant hussy; as verb, to run about wildly; and as adj., wild, rakish, jovial (*B. E.*); *to ride rantipole* (see Ride); *rantankerous*, quarrelsome. 2. To appropriate anything in a forcible manner: 'Let's go and rant their marleys,' says one urchin to another, and straightway the pair annex the possessions of a more respectable party. But it is also used to denote undue freedom with females, and springs, no doubt, from rantipole.

Rap. Quick, forcible, explosive action: generic: e.g. 1. a blow, a polt on the pate, and a hard knocking at a door (*B. E.*). 2. An oath or exclamation (also *rapper*). 3. A severe reprimand: as a *rap on* (or *over*) *the fingers, knuckles*, etc. Hence, as verb, (1) to strike smartly or to speak forcibly (espec. to reprimand): usually with *off* or *out*; (2) to break wind; (3) to swear; (4) to perjure oneself: to deal a blow at one's honour or another's reputation (1785). Also 4. *on the rap*, on the spree (q.v.); *in a rap*, in a moment; *rapfully*, violently; *rapped* (1) rained; (2) knocked out of time; (3) killed. 5. A counterfeit Irish coin nominally worth a halfpenny, but intrinsically less than half a farthing: proclaimed May 5th, 1737. 6. The smallest unit of value: see Care and Worth. 7. A cheat (Scots'). *Rapless*, penniless, stony (q.v.) (1724). As verb, (1) see subs. 1; (2) to barter, swop (q.v.) (1696).

Rape. A pear.

Rapparee. 1. An Irish robber or outlaw. 2. A vagabond.

Rapper. 1. A lie, whopper (q.v.). 2. See Rap, sense 1. *Rapping*, very (1688).

Rapscallion (**Rascallion, Rabscallion, Ramscallion,** or **Rascabilian**). A worthless wretch. *Rapscallionry*, etc., the world of rascaldom. Also as adj. (1622).

Raree-show. A peep-show: specifically one carried in a box. *Raree-showman*, a poor Savoyard trotting up and down with portable boxes of puppet-shows at their backs . . . pedlars of puppets (*B. E.*).

Rascal. A term of (*a*) affection, and (*b*) contempt: cf. rogue, scamp, etc. *Raskabilia*, the rascal people: see Rapscallion (1557).

Rasher-of-wind. 1. A thin person, lamp-post (q.v.), yard of pump-water (q.v.). 2. Anything of little or no account.

Raspberry. A gesture of contempt: the tongue is inserted in the left cheek and forced through the lips, producing a peculiarly squashy noise that is extremely irritating.

Raspberry-tart. 1. A dainty girl. 2. The heart.

Rasper. Anything especial: as (hunting) a bad leap; (common) a punishing blow, rank tradesman, or flat falsehood; a big turn or large profit; and so forth. *Rasping-shorter*, a ball which, blocked by the bat, glides swiftly along the ground instead of rebounding (1834).

Raspin (The). Bridewell.

Rat. 1. A renegade: espec. through self-interest. Whence (political), a deserter; or (trades-unionists') a workman accepting lower than the Union rate, or working when his mates have struck: also *ratter*. As verb (or *to do a rat*), in all these senses, whence (loosely) to change one's views or tactics. *Ratting* (*rattening*, or *rattery*), apostacy; *rat-shop* (*house*, or *office*), a workshop where full rates are not paid; *to ratten*, to destroy tools and appliances, to intimidate fellow workmen, or (masters') to lock out employees or engage non-Union (or free) labour. 2. A clergyman (1628) 3. A drunken person when in custody (*B. E.*). Whence (in pl.), d.t.'s (q.v.); *drunk as a rat*, hopelessly drunk: see Screwed (1553). 4. An infernal machine: espec. one used to founder insured bottoms. 5. In pl., a star. 6. A police spy: see **Nark**: hence (general) a term of contempt. 7. A hairpad, somewhat resembling a rat in shape, *circa* 1860-70. Also as verb. Phrases: *To smell a rat*, to suspect a trick or roguery; *to give green rats*, to malign or back-bite; *to have* (or *see*) *rats*, (1) to be eccentric, (2) out of sorts, (3) drunk, and (4) crazy: also *rats in the garret* (*loft*, or *upper storey*); *like a drowned rat*, sopping wet; *Rat me*, a variant of Rot me: an objurgation; *Rats!* a contemptuous retort: see Water (1508).

Rather! A strong affirmative: yes; I should think so: sometimes *rayther*. *Ratherish*, in some degree; slightly. *Rather of the ratherest*, said of anything slightly in excess or defect; in Norfolk of underdone meat.

Rat-hole. 1. An overwide space between printed words; a pigeon-hole (q.v.). 2. See Rat, subs. 1.

Rations. A flogging.

Rat's-tail. A writ, a *capias*.

Rattle. 1. A dice-box, 2 and 3. See verb. 1, and Rattler, 2. 4. In pl., (*a*) the croup, and (*b*) the throat rattle preceding death. As verb, generic for rapid movement or noisy loquacity: hence (1) to talk or move quickly or noisily; (2) to censure, confuse, or irritate. Whence, as subs., (1) a clamour of words; (2) a scolding; (3) a lively talker: also (senses 1 and 2) *rattling*. Derivatives are numerous: *Rattle-baby*, a chattering child; *rattle-bag* (*bladder*, *brain*, *cap*, *head*, *pate*, *scull*, or *rattler*), a flighty blab, a chatterbox (see Rattle-trap). As adj., chattering, whimsical, giddy; *rattled*, confused, flurried; *with a rattle*, with a rush or spurt; *to rattle up*, to gather noisily; *to rattle down*, to disperse with a clatter; *rattler*, (1) a rattle-bag, *supra*; (2) a smart blow or sound scolding; (3) an out-and-out lie; (4) a coach, cab, or train; (5) a rattlesnake (Amer.); (6) in pl., the teeth, grinders (q.v.); and (7) anything extra fine in size, value, etc.; *rattling*, (1) brisk; and (2) lively and conspicuous in pace, habit, manners, etc.; *rattling-cove*, a coachman; *rattling-mumper*, a carriage beggar: see Shake, Tats.

Rattletrap. 1. The mouth. 2. A Chatterbox: see Rattle. 3. Anything old and tumble-down: spec. a broken-down rattling conveyance. 4. Personal belongings: in jocular disparagement, and (*Grose*) any curious, portable piece of machinery or philosophical apparatus. As adj., worn-out, crazy (1830).

Rat-trap. A bustle, bird-cage (q.v.).

Raughty. See Rorty.

Rave. A strong liking, a craze: as X has a rave on Miss Z.

Ravilliac. Any assassin (*B. E.*).

Raw. 1. A novice: also *Johnny Raw*. 2. Anything uncooked, as oysters, sugar, etc. (1820). 3. A tender point, foible: as to touch on the *raws*, to irritate by allusion or joke, rub up the wrong way (1837). As adj., (1) See subs. 1. 2. Undiluted, neat (q.v.); *a raw recruit*, a nip of unwatered spirits.

Raw-head (or **Raw-flesh**). A spectre, a scare-child (*B. E.*): usually *Raw-head and Bloody-bones* (1550).

Raw-lobster. A policeman: cf. Lobster, a soldier.

Raw-'uns (The). The naked fists.

Ray. Eighteen-pence.

Raymonder. See Ramrod, 2.

Razor. 1. A pun. *Sick razor*, a bad pun. 2. In pl., aerated waters, sober-water (q.v.). *Parlour full of razors*: see Parlour.

Razor-strop. A copy of a writ.

Razzle-dazzle. A frolic.

Reacher. 1. A blow delivered at long point. 2. An exaggeration, stretcher (q.v.): see Whopper.

Reach-me-down. In pl., second-hand or ready-made clothes: also Hand-me-downs: Fr. *décrochez-moi-ça.*

Read. *To read between the lines,* to look into a milestone, to quest for hidden meanings in plain English. *To read the paper,* to take a nap: see Doss.

Read-and-write. Flight. As verb, to fight.

Reader. 1. A pocket-book. 2. A newspaper, letter, etc. *To read,* to steal; *reader-hunter* (or *merchant*), a pickpocket, dummy-hunter (q.v.); *readered,* advertised in the *Police Gazette,* wanted (q.v.).

Ready (The) (Ready-stuff, John, gilt, or Ready-money). 1. Money: spec. money in hand. *Ready thick-'un,* a sovereign, 20s.: see Rhino (1618). 2. Prepared. *A good ready,* on the spot (q.v.). As verb, to pull a horse.

Real. A superlative: very, quite, really. *Real fine, glad, good,* etc., very fine, glad, good, etc., indeed; *real jam,* an acme: see Jam; *real grit,* sound to the core: see Grit: *the real* (or *the real thing*), the genuine article.

Ream. See Rum.

Ream-penny. Peter-pence (that is Rome-penny). *To reckon one's ream pennies,* to confess one's faults.

Rear. A jakes: also as verb.

Rebec (or Rebeck). An old woman: in reproach: cf. Ribibe (1383).

Receiver-general. 1. A prostitute. 2. A boxer giving nothing for what he gets.

Recker, The (or Rekker). The town recreation-ground. [Where the school-sports are held.]

Reckon. To think, suppose, consider—peculiar to the Middle and Southern States, and provincial in England: cf. guess and calculate (1611). *To reckon up,* to gauge a person, measure (q.v.), size (q.v.). Hence, to slander, back-bite. See Chickens and Host.

Reckoning. See Accounts.

Record. *To beat (break, cut, lower,* or *smash) the record,* to surpass all previous performances, go one better (q.v.).

Recordite. One of the Low Church Party of the Established Church. [Their organ was *The Record.*]

Recreant. 'A Poltron, or Coward, one that eats his Words, or unsaies what he said' (*B. E.*).

Recruit. In pl., money in prospect: e.g. Have you raised the recruits? Has the money come in? (*B. E.*) *Recruiting service,* robbing on the highway.

Rector. 1. A poker kept for show, curate (q.v.), the work-a-day iron. 2. The bottom half of a tea-cake or muffin (as getting more butter), the top half being the curate, and so forth.

Red. 1. Gold: also *red-'un*: Fr., *jaune* (yellow); Ital., *rossume* (redness). *Red-rogue,* a gold piece; *red-toy* (or *kettle*), a gold watch; *red-tackle,* a gold chain: cf. Ruddork: *red-'un* also, a sovereign. 2. Variously applied to objects red in colour: as (1) a *red herring* (q.v.); (2) in pl., the menses; (3) in pl., blushes: also *red-rag,* whence *to mount the red-rag* (or *flag*), to blush; (4) a Red Republican: spec. (France '93) a violent revolutionary of the established order: see also Admiral, Red-cent, and Red-coat. Combinations are numerous—*Red-book,* a book of the officers of state or the Peerage: cf. Blue-book; *red-beast,* a Bow St. runner (they wore red waistcoats); also see *infra*; *red-cent,* originally a copper cent, now in phrase, not worth a red cent; *red-coat,* a soldier: also *the reds*; *red-cock,* an incendiary fire; *red-cross,* an English ship: as bearing the red cross of St. George (1626); *red-dog* (see Shinplaster); *red-eel,* a term of contempt; *red-eye* (or *red-head*), fiery whisky; *red-eye sour,* whisky and lemon; *red-flannel,* the tongue: see Rag, 2; *red-fustian,* (1) port, (2) claret, and (3) porter; also *red-tape*; *red-grate* (see Red-lattice); *red-head,* a red-haired person, carrots (q.v.); *red-herring,* a soldier: cf. Soldier, a red-herring; *red-horse,* a native of Kentucky; *red-hot,* violent, extreme; *red-letter day,* (1) a Church festival (printed in red characters in the Calendar): hence (2) a happy day or lucky occasion: whence *red-letter man,* a Roman Catholic; *red-liner,* a mendicity society officer; *red-petti-*

coat, a symbol of means: e.g. *a lass in a red petticoat*, a wife with a portion; *red-rag* (see Rag and Red), and (2), a source of annoyance or disgust: usually a *red-rag* to a mad bull; *red-ribbon*, brandy: cf. White-satin; *red-sail docker*, a buyer of stores stolen out of the royal yards and docks; *red-skin*, a North American Indian. *Neither fish, flesh, fowl, nor good red-herring*, nondescript, neither one thing nor another, neither hay nor grass (1528). *To paint* (or *varnish*) *the town red* (or *crimson*), to indulge in a drunken spree.

Redbreasts (The). 1. The 5th (Royal Irish) Lancers. 2. See Red.

Red Feathers (The). The late 46th Foot, now the 2nd batt. Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. [A light company were brigaded with others in 1777 as The Light Battalion. The Americans, harassed by the Brigade, vowed no quarter. In derision, to prevent mistakes, the Light Battalion dyed their feathers red.] Also Murray's Bucks; The Surprisers; The Lacedemonians; and The Docs.

Redge (or **Ridge**). Gold: see Red, subs. 1. Hence *redge-cully*, a goldsmith.

Red-knights. The Cheshire Regiment (formerly the Twenty-second Regiment of Foot). [In 1795 it was served with red jackets, waistcoats, and breeches in lieu of the proper uniform.] Also The Two Two's.

Red (or Scarlet) Lancers (The). The 16th (The Queen's) Lancers. [The only Lancer regiment with a scarlet tunic.]

Red-lane (close, or sea). The throat, gutter-alley (q.v.) (1566).

Red-lattice (or Lettice). An ale-house sign. Hence *red-lattice phrases*, pothouse talk; also *green lattice*; *red-grate*, tavern or brothel, or both combined (1596).

Redraw. A warder, jigger-dubber (q.v.).

Redshanks. 1. Applied alike to Highlanders and Irish: Scott says, The ancient buskin was made of the undressed deer hide . . . which procured the well-known epithet of redshanks. 2. A turkey. [Properly the pool-snipe.] 3. A duck or drake (1567).

Red-tape. 1. Official routine, formality. As adj., formal: also *red-tapery* or *red-tapeism*, official routine; *red-tapist*, (*a*) a government clerk; (*b*) a precisian: cf. Blue-tape (1775). 2. See Red.

Reeb. Beer: *top of reeb*, a pot of beer.

Reef. 1. To draw up a dress pocket until the purse is within reach of the fingers. 2. (American). To saw a horse's mouth (*Century*). *To let out a reef*, to unfasten a button after a meal. *To need a reef taken in*, to be drunk: see Screwed.

Reefer. 1. A midshipman. 2. A short all-round jacket.

Reek. Money: see Rhino.

Reekie. See Auld Reekie.

Reel. *To reel off* (or *out*), to speak or produce easily. *Off the reel*, in succession, right off.

Reeler. A policeman, peeler (q.v.).

Reel-pot. A drunkard: see Lushington. *Reeling*, drunk: see Screwed.

Reformado. A disbanded soldier, a degraded officer. [In Sp., an officer deprived of his command but retaining rank and pay: Fr., *reformé*.] As adj., degraded (1598).

Reener (tramps'). Any small coin.

Reesbin. A prison, stir (q.v.): see Cage.

Reflector. A prepared card: the pattern on the back is so grouped as to signalise its face value.

Refresher. 1. A daily fee given to a barrister after the retainer: spec. when a case is adjourned (1616). 2. A drink, go (q.v.).

Regardless. See Get-up.

Regular. In pl., shares of a booty: see Nab. English synonyms: to come (or stand in), go rags, whack, go whacks, whack up, go snacks. 2. (colloquial). (*a*) A person keeping stated times or doing regular duty; (*b*) anything recurring periodically: as a daily passenger, a drink taken at fixed hours, etc. (1397). As adj., thorough, out-and-out: as a *regular tartar*, a shrew (male or female); *a regular sell*, a consummate swindle; *a regular corpser*, a knock-out blow; *a regular pelter*, a cat-and-dog rain; *a regular crow*, a person dismally garbed.

Regulator. In pl., a band of lynchers, a vigilance committee (q.v.): see Rustler.

Rehoboam. 1. A shovel-hat (1841). 2. A quadruple Magnum (q.v.), a double Jeroboam (q.v.): usually of champagne.

Reign. To be at liberty.

Relation. See Avuncular Relation.

Relieve. To ease oneself.

Reliever. Among tailors an old coat kept, and borrowed by such men as have none of their own to go out in.

Relieving-officer. A father; the governor (q.v.).

Religion. *To get religion*, to be converted.

Religious. 1. Free from vice: specifically of horses. 2. Of a horse given to going on his knees: see Devotional habits.

Remainder. 1. The unsold part of an edition bought to be re-sold at a reduced price. 2. The drainings of pots and glasses: see All nations.

Remedy (Winchester). 1. A holiday: cf. Work (pain) and Remi. (1519). 2. A sovereign, 20s.: see Rhino.

Remedy-critch. A chamber-pot.

Remember. See Parson Meldrum.

Remi (Westminster School). A holiday: cf. Remedy.

Renovator. A repairing tailor: translator.

Rent. Plunder, booty. *To collect rent*, to rob travellers on the highway. *Rent-collector*, a highwayman: specifically one whose fancy was for money only. *Rents coming in*, dilapidated, ragged. *To pay one's rent*, to punish (q.v.), to pay out (q.v.)

Rep. 1. A woman of reputation (*Grose*). 2. A woman of a certain reputation: also demi-rep: cf. Rip. Also short for repute. *'Pon* (or *on*) *rep*, Upon my reputation. 3. A repetition.

Repairs. *No repairs*, said of a reckless contest, neck or nought.

Repartee. A sudden smart reply (*B. E.*).

Repeater. An elector voting twice on the same qualification.

Reporter. A duelling pistol: see Meat-in-the-Pot (1827).

Reposer. A final drink, night-cap (q.v.).

Reptile. 1. A new cadet: cf. rabid-beast. 2. A degraded wretch, baseling. *Reptile press*, the hireling press.

Republican. A Commonwealths-man (*B. E.*).

Republic of letters. The post-office.

Requisition. To take by force: now recognised.

Re-raw. A drinking bout. As adj., drunk: see Screwed.

Reservoir. *Au reservoir*, Au revoir.

Residential-club. An habitual assemblage of loafers: spec. a crew of idlers, male and female, frequenting the reading-room of the British Museum for the sake of shelter and warmth.

Respectable. Chaste, decent.

Responsions (Oxford). The first examination for candidates for the B.A. degree.

Respun. To steal: see Prig.

Rest. *And the rest?* A retort to anything incomplete, or in which something is being kept back.

Resty. Headstrong, wayward, unruly, masterless (*B. E.*).

Resurrection. A dish made of remains: also *resurrection-pie*.

Resurrectionist (or **Resurrection-man, cove, woman**). A body snatcher. *Resurrection-rig*, body-snatching.

Resurrectionists (The). The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). [From a rally at Albuera after dispersal at the hands of the Polish Lancers.] Also The Buff Howards; The Nutcrackers; and The Old Buffs.

Res-wort. Trousers: see Kicks.

Retoure. See Toure.

Returned-empty. A colonial missionary preferred to a place at home.

Ret-sio. An oyster: *ret-sios*, oysters.

Revelation. A drink, go (q.v.).

Revel-dash (or **rout**). A rough, noisy, and indecent gathering or carouse. *Revel-rout*, a company of spreesters (q.v.).

Revenge. An opportunity for recouping or retaliation. *Revenge in lavender*, a vengeance in store, a rod in pickle (q.v.).

Reverence. See Sir Reverence.

Reverent. Said of a superior brand of whisky or brandy.

Reversed. A man set (by bullies) on his head, and his money turned out of his breeches (*B. E.*).

Review. *Review of the Black Cuirassiers*, a visitation of the clergy.

Reviver. 1. A drink, pick-me-up (q.v.), go (q.v.). 2. A mending tailor: cf. Translator. As verb, to mend, patch.

Rev-lis. Silver.

Reward. Supper: specifically the blood and entrails of the quarry (*B. E.*).

Rex. *To play rex*, to handle roughly and terribly, play hell with (q.v.).

Rheumatism in the Shoulder. Arrest.

Rhino. Money: *Generic*; specifically ready money. *Rhino-fat* (or *rhinoceral*), rich (1670). Synonyms, generic. Actual, ballast, beans, bit (bite or byte), blunt, brads, brass, bustle, Californians, captain (the), caravan, change, charms, checks, chink, chinkers, chips, clink, coal (or cole), cod (q.v.), coin, coliander-seeds, coppers, cork, corn in Egypt, crap (or crop), crisp, cuckoos, darby, delog (back slang), dibs, dimmock, dinarly (or dinarlies), dingbat, dirt, dollars, dooteroomus (or doot), dots, ducats, dues, dumps, dust, dye-stuffs, evil, (the), family-plate, fat, feathers, flimsy (or flim), flour, gent, gilt (gelt, gelter, or gil-tick), gingerbread, gingleboys, ginglers, glanthorne, goree, greed, grocery, haddock (q.v.), hard, hard-stuff, hen, honey, horsenails, hoxters (or huxters), iron, jink, John (John Davis or ready-John), kelter (or kilter), King's (or Queen's) pictures, lawful pictures, legem pone, loaver, lour (or loure), £ s. d., lurries, mammon, metal, mopusses, mouldy-'uns, moss, muck, needful, nobbings, nonsense, nuggets, ochre, oil of angels, oil of palms, ointment, old, oof (or ooftish: Yiddish), paint, palm-oil, pan, pap (cf. soft), paper, pee, penny, pewter, pieces, pile, plate, plums, pocket, pony, portcullis, posh, pot, powder, prey, punchable (q.v.), purse, queer, quids, rags, ready (ready-gilt or ready-John), redge (or ridge), reek, regulars, ribbon, ring, rivets, root of all evil, rowdy, salt, sawdust, scads, screens, screeves, scuds, shadscales (or scales), shan, shekels, shells, shigs, shiners, shot, shin-plasters (or plasters), sinews of war, skin, soap, soft, soft flimsy (base), Spanish, spanks, spankers, spondulicks, spoon, stamps, steven, stevers, stiff, stuff, stumpy, sugar, tin, tea-spoons, tow, wad, wedge, wherewith (or wherewithal), yellowboys, yennoms (back slang). **£1,000,000**, marigold. **£100,000**, plum. **£1,000**, cow. **£500**, monkey. **£100**, century. **£25**, pony. **£10**, double-finnup, long-tailed finnup (also of notes of higher values), tenner. **£5**, Abraham Newland (q.v.), finnup, fiver, flimsy, lil (or lill), Marshall, pinnif. **£1** (and in many cases formerly, **£1 : 1s.**), bean (or bien), bleeder, canary, chip, couter (or cooter), dragon, dunop, foont, George (or yellow-George), gingleboy, glistener, goblin, goldfinch, harlequin, horse-sovereign, illegitimate, Jack, James, Jane, Jemmy-o'-Goblin (rhyming), job (or jobe), meg (cf. mag, ½d.), monarch, mousetrap, ned (or neddy), new-hat, nob, old Mr. Gory, ponte, poona, quid, red-'un, remedy, ridge, (or redge), shiner, skin, skiv, stranger, strike, thick-'un (also of 5s.), yellow-boy, yellow-hammer. **10s.**, half-bean, half-couter, half-Jack, half-James, half-Jane, half-ned (or neddy), net-gen, smelt, young illegitimate. **7s.**, spangle. **6s. 6d.**, George. **5s. 3d.** whore's curse. **5s.**, bull (or bull's-eye), caroon, cart-wheel, coach-wheel, case, caser, decus, dollar, hind coach (or cart) wheel, Oxford, thick-'un, tusheroon, wheel. **2s. 6d.**, coach-wheel, five-pot piece, flatch, fore-coach-wheel, George, half-case, half dollar, half-Oxford, half-yenork, madza-caroon, slat. **2s.** half-dollar. **1s. 6d.**, hog and a kye. **1s. 1½d.**, loonslate (or loonslatt), hangman's wages. **1s.**, Abraham's willing (rhyming), blow, bob, bobstick, borde, breaky-leg, button, deaner, (or deener), gen, generalise, grunter, hog, jogue levy, lilywhite-groat, Manchester, sovereign, mejoge, north-easter, oner, peg, teviss, thirteener, touch-me, twelver. **10d.**, dacha-saltee, jumper. **9d.**, ill-fortune, picture of ill-luck. **6d.**, bandy, bender, cripple, croaker, crook, crook-back, deaner, downer, fiddle, fiddler, fyebuck, goddess Diana, griff-metol, grunter, half-borde, half-hog, hog, kick, kye, lord-of-the-manor, northeaster, pig, pot, sice, simon, snide, sow's-baby, sprat, sye-buck, tanner, tester, tilbury, tizzy. **5d.**, cinqua soldi, kid's-eye. **4d.**, castle rag, flag, groat, joe (or joey). **3d.**

currants-and-plums, threps, three-swins, thrums. **2d.**, dace, deuce, duce. **1d.**, D, dibblish, George, harper, pollard, saltee, win, yennep. **½d.**, flatch, madza-saltee, Maggie Rab (or Robb), magpie, make (magg or mec), post, rap, scurrick, tonic. **¼d.**, Covent-garden, fadge, farden, fiddler, gennitraf, grig, Harrington, jig (or gigg), quartereen, scrope. *Base coin* or *trick pieces*, cap, cover-down, dandy, double-header, flats, fleet-note, fletch (or flatch), gaffing-coin, galley-halfpenny, gammy lour, gray, hard, hardware, kone, mopus, pony, queer, soft-flimsy, snide, stumer.

Rhody (Little). The State of Rhode Island: the smallest in the Union.

Rhyme-slinger. A poet.

Rhyming slang. A method of indicating words by a rhyming or quasi-rhyming substitute; e.g. *Abraham's willing*, shilling; *stand-and-shiver*, river; *elephant's trunk*, drunk; *penny-come-quick*, trick; and so forth. First in vogue during the late Fifties, but artistically developed of late years by *The Sporting Times* or *Pink 'Un*. With use the rhyme has been suppressed by experts: e.g. *I'm-so-frisky*, whisky becomes *I'm-so*, while *flounder-and-dab*, cab, is merely *flounder*.

Rib. 1. A wife: *crooked rib*, a cross-grained wife: see Dutch (1609). 2. In pl., a stout person. See Devil's Bones.

Ribald (Ribold, or Ribaud). A profligate, male or female. *Ribaldry* (*ribaudry*, or *ribble-rabble*), (1) indecency, profligate talk; (2) the mob, the scum of society; *ribble-row*, (1) a list of the rabble, (3) an inventory (1360).

Ribbin (Ribbon, or Ribband). 1. Money: generic; *The ribbin runs thick* (or *thin*), the breeches are well-lined (or there's little cash about). 2. In pl., reins: *to handle* (or *flutter*) *the ribbons*, to drive. See Blue Ribbon.

Rib-roast (baste, or tickle). To thrash, punish (q.v.). *Rib-roasting* (etc.: also *rib-bending* or *ribbing*), a pummelling; *rib-roaster* (etc.: also *rib-bender*, *ribber*, or *a rib of roast*), a blow on the body, or in the ribs, which brings down an opponent's guard and opens up the head (1576).

Ribstone. See Pippin.

Rib-tickler. 1. Thick soup, glue (q.v.). 2. See Rib-roast.

Rice-bags. 1. Trousers: see Kicks. 2. In sing., a rice planter.

Rich. (1) Outrageous; (2) ridiculous; and (3) spicy (q.v.). (1350).

Rich-face. A red face (*B. E.*).

Richard. A dictionery; also Richard Snary and Richardanary. Fr., *musicien*. (*Grose*).

Rick-ma-tick. 1. A concern, business, thing: as The whole blessed rick-ma-tick went to smash. 2. Arithmetic.

Ricochet. Gay, splendid.

Rid. *To rid the stomach*, to vomit.

Riddlemeree. Rigmarole, nonsense, piffle (q.v.).

Ride. To rob on the highway. Phrases: *To ride and tie*, two set out together, one on horseback, the other on foot: when one arrives at the distance agreed on . . . he dismounts, ties his horse to some gate, tree, post . . . and then proceeds on foot; when the other comes up to the horse, he unties him, mounts, and gallops on; till having passed by his fellow traveller he likewise arrives at the place of tying. *To ride the fringes*, to beat the bounds; *to ride as if fetching the midwife*, to go post-haste; *to ride out*, to adopt the profession of arms. See Back, Black donkey, Bodkin, Brose, Cowlstaff, Grub, Holborn Hill, High-horse, Hobby-horse, Marleybone Stage, Romford, Roughshod, Spanish Mare, Stang, Wild-mare.

Rider. 1. A question or clause added to a geometrical problem, an Act of Parliament, an examination paper, etc. 2. A Dutch coin with a man on horseback, worth about twenty-seven shillings: also a Scots gold piece issued by James VI. 3. A commercial traveller; a bagman (q.v.).

Ridge (or Redge). Gold: manufactured or specie: in latter case specifically, a guinea. Whence, *ridge-montra*, a gold watch; *cly full of ridge*, a pocket full of money; *ridge-cully*, a goldsmith.

Ridiculous. Indecent, improper: any violent attack upon a woman's chastity is called very ridiculous behaviour: a very disorderly, and ill-conducted house is also called a ridiculous one.

Riding-hag. The nightmare: also *the riding of the witch.*

Riff-raff (raff or raffle). 1. Refuse, lumber. 2. The mob: spec. (Oxford Univ.) town (q.v.) as opposed to gown (q.v.), or *vice versa.* 3. Booty. As adj., worthless. *Raff-merchant,* a marine-store dealer; *Raffish,* disreputable; *raffishness,* scampishness. As verb, *raff* (or *raffle*), to live filthily, to pig it (q.v.). *Raffle-coffin,* a ruffian, ribald fellow (*B. E.*).

Rig. 1. Generic for wantonness. As subs., (*a*) a wanton (also *rig-mutton* and *rigsby*); (*b*) a drinking bout; (*c*) anything dubious, as a knock-out, a cross-fight, a cheat; (*d*) an unscrupulous person; and (*e*) a half or whole gelding. As verb, (*a*) to play the wanton; (*b*) to spree (q.v.); (*c*) to trick, to steal; and (*d*) to ride pick-a-back. *Riggish,* wanton; *rigolage,* wantonness; *to run* (*play,* or *carry*) *a rig,* to play fast-and-loose; *to rig the market,* to raise or depress prices for one's private advantage: hence to swindle; *up to the rigs,* expert, wide-awake, fly (q.v.) (1320). 2. Dress, style, a turn-out, outfit: also *rig-out* and *rigging.* As verb, to equip; *rigged,* dressed; *rum-rigging,* fine clothes (1594).

Riggen. *To ride the riggen,* to be very intimate.

Rigger. A racing boat.

Right. Very, just, quite. Colloquialisms are numerous: *Right as rain* (*as ninepence, my leg, anything, a fiddle, trivet,* etc.), absolutely dependable; *to rights,* completely to one's satisfaction; *right there,* on the spot; *right great,* very much; *right now,* instanter; *right so,* just so; *to do one right* (or *reason*), (1) to do justice, and (2) to pledge in drinking; *right out,* to a finish; *right down,* downright; *right smart,* extremely clever; *right away* (*out,* or *straight*), *right off* (*here,* or *out*), immediately; *to turn* (or *send*) *to the right-about,* to dismiss; *right you are,* a complete acquiescence: *all right,* certainly, O.K.; *a bit of all right,* extremely good; *right along,* at these presents; *right up to the handle,* excellent; *to do* (or *have*) *one to rights,* to serve one out; *to set to rights,* to put in order; *right on,* entirely, straightforward; *right forth,* straight; *by good rights,* it should be so; *right royal,* drunk. See Leg.

Right-abouts (The). The Gloucestershire Regiment. Also The Old Braggs; The Slashers; and The Whitewashers.

Right-eye (or hand). *My right-eye itches,* the jesting dovetail is: I'm going to cry (or receive money).

Right-hander. A hit with the right-hand.

Right-side. *To rise on the right side,* a happy augury: cf. Wrong side (q.v.) of the bed (1607).

Right-sort. Gin: see White Satin (1820).

Righteous. An inverted appreciation: e.g. a *righteous* (i.e. fine) as distinguished from a wicked (q.v.) day, etc.: cf. Religious. *More holy than righteous,* applied to a tattered garment or person.

Rigmarole. A tedious story, twaddle, rambling statement: also *ragman roll, rig-my-roll,* and *rigmarole.* As adj., roundabout, nonsensical. [A corruption of Ragman roll—i.e. the Devil's Roll: cf. Rageman — applied apparently to any document containing many details; also to an old game in which a parchment roll played a part.] (1529).

Rigol (or Rigil). See Rig.

Rile (Roil, or Royle). To vex, irritate, disturb. *Rily,* cross-grained; *rilement,* ill-temper. [Originally, to make turbid.] Fr., *cavaler* (or *courir*) *sur le haricot* (1656).

Rimble-Ramble. Nonsense. As adj., nonsensical (1600).

Rinder. An outsider.

Riner. *To shed riners with a whaver,* to cap, surpass.

Ring, subs. (colloquial). 1. A place set apart for, or a concourse engaged in, some specific object: as (*a*) an enclosure used for betting, and (*b*) the bookmakers therein; (*c*) the circle, square, or parallelogram within which a fight takes place: hence *The prize ring,* the world of pugilists; (*d*) the space within which horses are exhibited at fair, market, or auction; (*e*) a combination for controlling a market or political measure; in America a trust: hence *ringman,* a bookmaker (q.v.) (1705). 2. Money extorted by rogues on the highway, or by gentlemen beggars (*B. E.*). As verb, (1) to manipulate; spec. to change: e.g. *to ring castors*, to exchange hats; *to ring the changes*, (*a*) to substitute bad money for good; and (*b*) so to bustle that change is given wrong (1678); (2) when housebreakers are disturbed and have to abandon their plunder they say that they have rung themselves; (3) to patrol cattle by riding round and round them: also *to ring up*; (4) to create a disturbance, racket (q.v.); (5) to talk: spec. to scold: of women. Phrases: *To ring the horseshoes*, to welcome a man returning from a drinking-bout; *to go through the ring*, to go bankrupt, to be whitewashed (q.v.); *to ring in*, (1) to quote; to implicate, (2) to get the better of, (3) in gaming, to add to (or substitute) cards in a pack surreptitiously: whence, *to ring in a cold deck*, to substitute a prepared pack of cards; *cracked in the ring*, flawed; *to come on the ring*, to take one's turn; *to take the mantle and ring*, to vow perpetual widowhood.

Ring-dropper (or **faller**). A sharper who, pretending to have found a ring, induces a gull to part for a snide or stumer article. *Ring-dropping*: see Fawney-dropper.

Ringer. A bell, tinkler: Fr., *battante, brandillante.*

Ring-man. 1. The middle or ring finger: cf. Darkmans, Ruff-mans, etc. (1544). 2. See Ring.

Ring-tail. A recruit, snooker (q.v.).

Ring-tailed roarer. The nonsense-name of some imaginary beast.

Rink. *To get out of one's rink*, to sow wild oats. [*Rink*, a course, a race, ring, or circle.]

Rinse. Any sort of potable, lap (q.v.). As verb, to drink, lush (q.v.).

Riot Act. *To read the riot act*, to administer a jobation, reprove.

Riotous-living. Luxuries. [Cf. Luke xv. 13.]

Rip. A reprobate, rake (q.v.). Hence anything censurable: as a screw (q.v.) of a horse (*Grose*), a shabby mean fellow: sometimes in jest. As verb, (1) to take one's own course, go as one will, tear along, drive furiously: usually in phrase, *let her rip*: also *to rip and stave*: whence *ripper*, a tearer; *to rip and tear*, to be furious; *to rip out*, to explode; also as an oath, *rip me!* (1600); (2) to search, rummage: espec. with a view to plunder; (3) to steal; *ripper*, a robber (1388).

Ripe. 1. Drunk. 2. Ready (1609).

Ripon (or **Rippon**). 1. A spur. 2. A sword. [The Yorkshire City was formerly famous for its fine steel.] (1625).

Ripper. Anything especial: a good ball (cricket), a knock-down blow (pugilistic), a fine woman, an outrageous lie, etc. Hence *ripping*, great, excellent, stunning (q.v.).

Ripping (Eton College). A ceremony incidental to the departure of a Senior Colleger for King's College, Cambridge: when he has 'got King's' his gown is stitched up that it may be ripped afterwards. See Ripper.

Rise. An advance: in salary, price, betting, status, rank, etc.: see Raise. As verb, (1) to play into one's hands, listen credulously; (2) See Raise. *To get* (*have* or *take*) *a rise out of one*, to mortify, make ridiculous, outwit (1600). *To rise a barney*, to collect a crowd.

Rising. (1) Upwards of; (2) approaching to.

Rispin. See Respin.

River Lea. The sea.

River-rat. A riverside thief: specifically one who robs the corpses of men drowned.

River Tick. See Tick.

Rivet. In pl., money: see Rhino. As verb, to marry, hitch (q.v.), splice (q.v.) (1700).

Riz. See Raise.

Rizzle. To rest after a meal.

R. M. D. Ready Money down, immediate payment.

Roach. See Sound.

Road. *To take to the road*, to turn highwayman (*the road* also, highway robbery), footpad, beggar, tramp, or commercial. Whence *road-agent*, *gentleman* (or *knight*) *of the road*, (1) a highwayman, and (2) a commercial traveller (1704).

Roaf. Four. Hence *roaf-yanneps*, fourpence; *roaf-gen*, four shillings.

Roach-and-dace. The face: see Dial.

Roadster. A person who prefers the road to cross-country riding.

Roarer. Anything especially loud: e.g. (1), a broken-winded horse (*Grose*); (2) a pushing newsvendor; (3) a stump-orator. Hence *roar*, (1) to breathe hard: of horses; (2) to rant (q.v.); *roaring*, the disease in horses causing broken wind (1752).

Roaratorio. An oratorio.

Roaring. Brisk; successful; strong: see Drive, Humming, etc.

Roaring-boy (**blade, girl, lad, ruffian**, etc., or **Roarer**). A street bully: late 16th and 17th centuries: also oatmeal (q.v.) and terrible-boy (q.v.). As verb, to riot, swagger; *roaring*, riotous. As adv., extravagantly, noisily, superbly.

Roaring Buckle. See Buckle.

Roaring Forties. The degrees of latitude between 40° and 50° N.—the most tempestuous part of the Atlantic: also, occasionally to the same zone in the South Atlantic.

Roaring game (The). Curling. [*Burns*: The curlers quest their roaring play.]

Roaring Meg. (1) A very famous piece of ordnance; whence (2) anything loud, efficient, or extraordinary (1575).

Roast. 1. To ridicule, quiz (q.v.) (1732). 2. (*a*) To watch closely, stall (q.v.). Also *to roast brown* and *to get* (or *give*) *a roasting*: Fr., *pousser de la ficelle*. Thus (old) *to smell of the roast*, to get into prison (1587). Phrases: *To rule the roast*, to lead, domineer; *to cry roast meat*, to chatter about one's good fortune; *to make roast meat for worms*, to kill; *to give roast meat and beat with the spit*, to do one a curtesy, and twit or upbraid him with it (*B. E.*); *to roast snow in a furnace*, to attempt the unnecessary or absurd. Also proverbial sayings:—Set a fool to *roast* eggs, and a wise man to eat them; You are in your *roast meat* when others are in their fod; There's reason in *roasting* of eggs; Great boast and small *roast* make unsavoury mouths.

Roast-and-boiled. The Life Guards: who are mostly substantial housekeepers, and eat daily of roast and boiled (*Grose*).

Roaster. A landlord's agent.

Roast-meat clothes. Sunday or holiday gear.

Rob. See Barn, Peter.

Roba. See Bona-roba.

Rob-altar. A sacrilegious plunderer.

Robbery. *Exchange is no robbery*, an excuse for a forced or jesting imposition.

Rob-davy (or **Rob-o'-davy**). Metheglin.

Robe. *Gentleman of the long robe*, a lawyer: see Long Robe.

Roberd's-man (**knave**, or **Roberts'-man**). 'The third (old) Rank of the Canting Crew, mighty Thieves, like Robin-hood' (*B. E.*) (1362).

Robert (or **Roberto**). A policeman.

Robin. 1. A penny: see Rhino. 2. A flannel under-shirt (*Bartlett*). See Round Robin.

Robin Hood. Many phrases trace back to the legend of this heroic thief. Thus *Robin Hood*, a daring lie; *Robin Hood's pennyworth*, a great bargain; *Good even, good Robin Hood* (said of civility extorted by fear); Many talk of *Robin Hood* that never shot in his bow, Many speak of things of which they have no knowledge; Tales of *Robin Hood* are good enough for fools.

Robin Redbreast. A Bow Street runner: also *robin* and *redbreast*.

Robin's-eye. A scab.

Robinson. See Jack Robinson.

Rob-pot. A drunkard, maltworm (q.v.) (1622).

Rob-thief. A thief robbing thief; dog eating dog.

Roby Douglas. The breech.

Rock. Generic for hard eatables. (1) A cheese made from skim-milk, and said to be used in making pins to fasten gates (Hampshire); (2) A kind of hard sweetmeat; (3) School bread as distinguished from baker's-bread (Derby School); (4) A hard kind of soap; (5) A rock pigeon; (6) In pl., money; *pocketful of rocks*, flush; *on the rocks*, stranded (q.v.); (7) A pebble, a stone (at Winchester, a medium-sized stone): as verb, to throw stones; (8) A cause of difficulty, defeat, or annoyance: as an over-trump at cards, an obstacle suddenly placed in one's way, and so forth (1601). *The Rock*, Gibraltar. *To do by rock of eye and rule of thumb*, to substitute guesswork for exact measurement. See Bedrock, Rocker.

Rocker (or **Rokker**). (1) To understand; (2) to speak.

Rocketer. A flushed pheasant, rising quick and straight; *rocketting*, rising straight.

Rock-scorpion. A mongrel Gibraltarine: Spanish, Portuguese, French, Genoese, Barbary Hebrew, Moorish, negro—a mixture of all mettles.

Rocky (**Rocked**, or **Rocketty**). 1. Broken: by drink, illness, poverty; and, 2. difficult, dubious, debateable. Hence *to go rocky*, to go to pieces, go wrong. Whence *rockiness*, (1) craziness; (2) incapacity, utter or partial; *off one's rocker*, crazy; *rocked in a stone kitchen*, the person spoken of is a fool, his brains having been disordered by the jumbling of his cradle (*Grose*).

Rod. An angler. See Breach, Pickle, Tail.

Rod-maker (Winton). The man who made the rods used in Bibling (q.v.).

Rodney. *A regular Rodney*, an idle fellow, lazybones.

Rodomontade. Boasting, swagger. Hence *Rodomont*, a boaster. [A character in Ariosto.]

Rof-efil. A life sentence, for life.

Roger. 1. A portmanteau, poge (q.v.). 2. A goose: also *Roger* (or *tib*) *of the buttery*. 3. A pirate flag: also *Jolly Roger*. 4. A rogue (q.v.).

Rogerian. A kind of wig.

Rogue (**Roge**, or **Roger**). 1. A professed beggar; the fourth Order of Canters (*Awdeley*). 2. *Wild rogue*, a born rogue. 3. A knave or rascal. *A rogue in grain*, a great rogue, or a corn-chandler (*Grose*); *a rogue in spirit*, a distiller or brandy-merchant (*Grose*). As verb, to beg. 4. Anything vicious, bastard, unstandardized. Thus *rogue-elephant*, an evil-minded murderous male or female; *rogue's badge*, blinkers for a vicious horse. 5. An endearment: whence *roguish*, playfully mischievous: also a wag. Derivatives: *Rogues'-gallery*, a collection of photographs of convicted prisoners; *rogue-house*, a prison or lock-up; *rogue-money* (Scots'), an assessment for police purposes; *rogue's-march*, the drumming-out (q.v.) of a disgraced soldier or sailor; *rogue's-yarn*, a worsted thread, varying in colour in each dockyard, woven in each strand of rope to prevent theft and to trace defective manufacture.

Rogue-and-pullet. A man and woman in confederacy as thieves.

Rogue-and-villain. A shilling: see Rhino.

Rogueship. See Spittle-rogueship.

Roister (**Royster Doister**, **Royster**, **Roisterer**, etc.). 1. A swaggerer. 2. A frolic. Whence as verb (also *roist*), to swagger; *roisting* (*roistering*, *roisterly*, or *roisterous*), uproarious (1553).

Roker. A ruler, stick, poker. *Flat-roker*, a flat ruler. [*Roke*, to stir a fire, a liquid, etc.]

Roland (or **Rowland**) **for Oliver.** A match, tit for tat, six of one and half-a-dozen of the other, a fanciful or practical proof of equality Fr., *Guy Contre Robert* (14th century).

Roly-poly. 1. A country bumpkin (1602). 2. A jam roll pudding, dog-in-a-blanket: also *roll-up*. As adj., round and fat (1841). 3. (common). A comic dance.

Roll. In pl., a baker: see Burn-crust: also Master of the Rolls. As verb, a verb of spirit: generic (1), to gad; (2) to rollick in one's walk; and (3) to swagger: also *to roll about*. Whence *to roll in bub* (or *grub*), to have plenty to eat (or drink); *to roll in gold*, to be monstrous rich: *to roll in one's ivories*, to kiss; *to roll in every rig*, to be up-to-date; *to roll the leer*, to pick pockets; *to have a roll on*, to swagger, to put on side (q.v.); *to roll one's hoop*, to go ahead, be on the safe side; *rolling*, smart, ready; *rolling kiddy*, a clever thief; *rollick* (or *rollop*), to romp along.

Roller. 1. A roll-call. 2. In pl., United States Rolling Stock. 3. In pl., the horse and foot patrols (1785). 4. A go-cart. 5. A big wave coming in from a distance, and so with enormous energy: also *runner*.

Rolley. A vehicle.

Rollickers. The 2nd Bat. The Princess Victoria's Royal Irish Fusiliers (formerly the Eighty-Ninth Foot). Also (1798) Blayney's Blood-hounds.

Rolling-pin. See Pin.

Roll-me-in-the-dirt. A shirt.

Roll-up. See Roly-poly.

Rom. See Romany.

Romance. A lie, taradiddle. As verb, to lie pleasantly, to stretch in discourse (*B. E.*).

Roman-fall. A posture (c. 1868) in walking: the head well forward and the small of the back well in: see Grecian Bend.

Romany (**Rommany**, or **Rom**). (1)

A gipsy; and (2) the language spoken by gipsies. Whence *to patter Romany,* to talk the gipsy flash (*Grose*); *Romany rye,* a gentleman who talks and associates with gipsies. [A few Romany words have passed into English, but the only European tongues on which the Gipsy has had much influence are those of the Peninsula. In Spanish and Portuguese almost all the slang is Gipsy and almost all the Gipsy is slang.] See Rum.

Rombelow. See Rumbelow.

Rumboyle (or **Romboyles**). To make hue and cry, whiddle beef (q.v.): Fr., *battre morasse.* Whence *romboyl'd,* wanted (q.v.).

Rome. See Rum, *passim.*

Romer (or **Romekin**). A drinking glass (or can).

Rome-ville. London.

Romford. See Rumford.

Romp. A boisterous girl, tomboy (q.v.). As verb, (1) to lark (q.v.), play the rig (q.v.), wanton; and (2) *to romp in,* to win easily (racing).

Roncher (or **Rouncher**). Anything of exceptional size or quality.

Rook. 1. A cheat: spec. gaming: also *rooker*: cf. sense 2 and Pigeon: hence *rookery* (or *roking*), swindling; *rooky* (or *rookish*), rascally, scampish; as verb, to cheat, swindle: hence also *rookery,* (1) a gambling hell; and (2) any place of ill-repute; e.g. (*a*) a brothel, (*b*) subalterns' barrack quarters, and (*c*) a neighbourhood occupied by a criminal or squalid population, a slum (q.v.) (1590). 2. A simpleton, pigeon (q.v.). [One fit for rooking: see sense 1]. (1596). 3. A clergyman: Fr., *corbeau.* 4. A sloven. 5. A housebreaker's jemmy (q.v.), a crow (q.v.). As verb, (1) see subs. 2; (2) to win heavily.

Rookery. See Rook, 1. 2. A scolding match.

Rooky (or **Rookey**). A recruit: see Snooker, and Rook, subs. 1.

Room. To inhabit. *Roomer,* a lodger: spec. one occupying a single apartment. See Apartments.

Roombelow. See Rumbelow.

Roorback. A journalistic or printed lie.

Roosher. A constable: see Nark.

Roost. Bed: also *roosting-place.* As verb, (1) to sleep; (2) to lodge (1749); (3) to imprison; (4) to cheat. *To roost over one,* to get a rise (q.v.).

Rooster. 1. A euphemism for the male of the barndoor hen. 2. A street brawler, a rough. See Queer.

Roost-lay. Poultry stealing: see Lay.

Root (The). Money. [The root of all evil.] As verb, to kick. Whence (The Leys School) *root-about,* promiscuous football practice: also as verb.

Rooter. A superlative: as a brutal attack, a very smart dress, a priceless gem, a flagrant untruth, and so forth.

Rooty. Bread.

Rope. 1. In pl., a half-back. 2. A trick or knack; spec. (nautical) *to know the ropes* (or *to be up to the ropes*), (1) to be expert, and (2) to be artful, fly (q.v.); *to pull* (or *work*) *the ropes,* to control or direct; *to rope in* (or *rope*), (1) to lose a race by pulling (q.v.) or other foul means; (2) to decoy (in a mock auction, gambling-den, etc.): hence *roper-in,* a decoy; and (3) to pull (or gather) in: as *to rope in the pieces,* to make money. Hence *plenty of rope,* lots of choice; *at the end of one's rope,* exhausted, done for (1623). As verb, 1. To hang: see Ladder; *rope-tricks* (*roping,* or *ropery*), roguery; *rope-ripe,* fit for hanging; *to cry rope,* to warn, to bid beware; give *rope* (or line) enough and he'll hang, He'll decoy himself to his undoing ; *Mr. Roper* (or *the roper*), the hangman; *the Rope-walk,* the Old Bailey; *to go into the rope-walk,* to take up criminal practice (1553). 2. To beat with a rope: hence *rope's-end,* a thrashing (1460). Phrases: *A rope of sand,* (1) a feeble hold, and (2) an endless or unprofitable task; *on the high ropes,* elated, arrogant: see High Horse; What a *rope!* What the devil; *to put a rope to the eye of a needle,* to attempt the impossible or absurd; also the proverbial saying, A *rope* and butter, if the one slip, the other may hold.

Roper (Mrs). A marine. *To marry Mrs. Roper,* to list in the Marines.

Ropper. A scarf, comforter. [? Wrapper.]

Roram (or **? Roland**). The sun: cf. Oliver, moon.

Roritorious. Uproarious: cf. 'rory-tory' (Devon) showy, dashing.

Rorty (or **Raughty**). Of the very

best. Hence *rorty-toff*, an out-and-out swell; *rorty-dasher*, a fine fellow; *to do the rorty*, to have a good time.

Rory-o'-More. 1. The floor. 2. A whore. 3. A door: also *Rory*.

Rorys (The). The Princess Louise's Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Rosary. A base coin (Ed. I.) resembling the current silver penny: it bore (*verso*) a rose or rosette.

Rose. 1. A bitch. 2. In pl., Buenos Ayres and Rosario Ry. Ordinary Stock. *Under the rose*, secretly, in confidence (1546). *A rose between two thorns* (or *nettles*), a woman sitting between two men: the usual retort is: a thorn (or nettle) between two roses! *To strike with a feather and stab with a rose*, to chastise playfully: a music-hall refrain.

Roseberys. London County Council 2½ per cent. Stock: Lord Rosebery was the first chairman of the Council.

Rosebud. A debutante ((1847).

Rosh (Roush). To hustle, horse-play. Hence *stop roshing!* an injunction to silence.

Rosin (Rozin, or Rozin-the-bow). 1. A fiddler; and, 2. fiddler's lap. Whence as verb, (1) to fiddle; and (2) to drink: *rosinned*, drunk: see Screwed (1607).

Rosser. See Rozzer.

Rost. *To turn boast to rost*, to turn from swagger to humility.

Rosy. 1. Drink; and, 2. blood: i.e. claret (q.v.). Hence *rosy-drop*, a grog blossom: also *the ruby*. *Rosy about the gills*, (1) fresh-coloured, (2) sanguine: cf. *white about the gills*: also *rosy*, favourable, auspicious, healthy: whence *the rosy*, good fortune.

Rot. Nonsense, bosh (q.v.): also *tommy-rot* (q.v.). As verb, to humbug, to bully; *rotter*, a good-for-nothing. *Rot it* (or *Rot 'um*) (common) Hang it!

Rotan. Any wheeled vehicle.

Rot-gut. Poor drink: generic: spec. bad beer or alcohol: also *rotto* (1597).

Rothschild. See Come.

Rotten-row. *To belong to Rotten row*, to be laid up as past service: of ships.

Rotten-sheep. A traitor: Fenian.

Rouge. A point in the Eton game of football: 3 *rouges*, 1 goal.

Rough. A ruffian. As adj., uncouth, hard, severe (*B. E.*): also (of fish) coarse or stale. *To cut* (or *turn*) *up rough* (or *to rough up*), (1) to be annoyed, and (2) to use strong language; *to rough one*, to vex; *to rough it* (or *lie rough*), (1) to endure hardship; (2) to take pot-luck; and (3) to sleep in one's clothes; *rough-and-ready*, unpolished, happy-go-lucky; *rough on*, hard, severe. *Rough on rats*, a hard case. See Ruff.

Rough-and-tumble. A free fight, a mellay. As adj., boisterous (1838).

Rough-diamond. A person of heart but no manners (1753).

Rough-fam (or **Rough-fammy**). A waistcoat pocket (1812).

Rough-music. A clatter of sticks, pots, pans, and musical instruments: for the annoyance of offenders outraging public prejudice: sometimes accompanied by burning in effigy.

Roughrider's-washtub. The barrack water-cart.

Roughshod. *To ride roughshod* (*over*, or *down*), to domineer, be void of guts (q.v.) or bowels (q.v.).

Rough-up. A fight at short notice.

Round. An appointed and established circuit of travel: generic: cf. *Rounder* and *gentleman of the round*, an officer of the watch (1596). Thus (1) topers', (*a*) liquor enough to go round the table, and (*b*) a toast drunk round; (2) gamesters', (*a*) cards to all, and (*b*) a hand in which all the players deal in turn; (3) an habitual course of visits, calls for orders, inspection; (4) a shot, a cartridge; and (5) archery, a competition; (6), pugilists', the successive periods of action in a mill: between fall and fall; and, under Queensberry Rules, so many encounters so many minutes long; (7) trousers: short for round-the-houses (q.v.). As adj., a general qualitative: simple, straightforward, unmistakable. Thus *a round sum*, (1) a large amount, and (2) a sum stated in one term: e.g. thirty pounds, thirty shillings, three pence; *a round answer*, plain speech; *round dealing*, honest trading; *round trot*, a good pace; *round tale*, the unvarnished truth; *round oath*, a swingeing expletive; *round-reply*, a straight answer; *roundly*, plainly, vehemently, briskly; *round* (or *brown*) *dozen* (see Brown) (1240). As verb, (1) to betray, peach (q.v.); (2) to turn upon and berate: also *to round on. To round up,* to collect cattle: for inspection, branding, etc.: also as subs.: whence (general), to complete, take stock. *To bet round,* to bet upon (or against) several horses in a race. *Round in the gills* (*face, body, twist,* or *guts*), languid, Mondayish (q.v.).

Round-about. 1. A farthingale. 2. A short close-fitting jacket: also *rounder.* 3. A female thief's all-round pocket. 4. A horizontal wheel or frame, turned by a small engine, and furnished with wooden horses and carriages; a merry-go-round. 5. A treadmill, everlasting-staircase (q.v.). 6. A housebreaker's tool; it cuts a round piece, about five inches in diameter, out of a shutter or door; also *round robin.*

Round-and-square. Everywhere.

Round-betting. See Round.

Roundem. A button.

Rounder. 1. A person or thing taking or making a round (q.v.). 2. A round of cheers. 3. A big oath. 4. A man who goes habitually from bar to bar. *To round* (or *round in the ear*), to whisper. See Round and Round-about.

Roundhead. A Puritan (q.v.) [The hair was worn closely cropped.] *To round the head,* to cut the hair round.

Roundy (or **Roundy-ken**). A watch-house, lock-up.

Round O. A thumping lie: see Whopper.

Round Robin. 1. The host. 2. A religious (or political) brawler. 3. We find the first instance of a Round Robin in 1626; sailors write their names and marks in a good round circular form so that none might appear for a ringleader (*New English*). 4. A big swindle: see Roundabout.

Round-shaving. A reprimand.

Round-the-houses. Trousers: cf. Rounds.

Ronny. A potato, murphy (q.v.)

Rouse. 1. A large glass full of liquor. 2. A big bumper. 3. A carouse (1596). 4. Fighting.

Rouser. Generic for anything exceptional. Hence *rousing,* very great, startling, exciting (1677).

Roust. 1. To frisk, disturb, shift. 2. To steal: see Roustabout.

Roustabout (**Rouse-about,** or **Rouser**). 1. A rough-and-ready colonial or backwoodsman. 2. A fidget. 3. A term of contempt.

Rout. 1. A fashionable party. 2. A card party at a private house (*Grose*). As verb, to assemble in company (1775).

Router. A cow: hence *router putters,* cows'-feet.

Rove. To wander idly up and down (*B. E.*).

Rover. 1. A young woman engaged, lawfully or not, in collecting money for charity. 2. A pirate, freebooter (formerly: now recognised) a wanderer, a vagabond (*B. E.*) Also *to run* (or *shoot*) *at rovers,* to run wild, to act at random (1440). 3. In pl., the thoughts (*Jamieson*).

Row. 1. A disturbance, shindy (q.v.), boisterous talk: also *rowing.* 2. A mob (Univ.). *Rowing-man* (*ow* as *ough* in bough), a spreester (q.v.). As verb, to abuse, create a disturbance; *to get into a row,* to get into trouble; [*Grose*: s.v. Rout, shortened into row, Cambridge slang.] *The Row,* 1. Rotten Row, Hyde Park. 2. Paternoster Row (booksellers') (1812). Phrases: *A hard* (or *long*) *row to hoe,* a difficult task; *to hoe one's own row,* to mind one's own business; *to row in the same boat,* to share.

Rowdy. 1. A blackguard. 2. A political brawler. *Rowdy* (*rowdy-dowdy,* or *rowdy-dow*), blackguardly, turbulent, vulgar; *rowdyism* (*rowdy-dow,* or *rowdiness*), blackguardism (1842). 3. Money: see Rhino: cf. Ruddy.

Rowl. 1. To recite well: cf. Rush. 2. Money: see Rhino.

Royal. A docker whose name is on the dock's books and who takes precedence as regards casuals.

Royal-goats. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers (formerly the Twenty-third Foot). Also Nanny-goats. [A goat is kept as a regimental pet.]

Royal-image. In pl., money: see Rhino.

Royal Poverty. Gin: see White Satin.

Royal-scamp. A gentleman of the road (q.v.) as distinguished from a foot-pad (1783).

Royster. See Roister.

Rozin. See Rosin.

Rozzer. A policeman.

R's. See Three R's (The).

Rub (or **Rubber**). 1. An obstacle, disputable point, difficulty: also (Old Cant), a hard shift (*B. E.*); as verb, to hinder, obstruct (1590). 2. A loan: as of a newspaper. As verb, to run or take away: also *to rub off*; *to rub to the whitt*, to send to Newgate (1550). Colloquialisms: *To rub along* (*on* or *out*), (1) to manage somehow, to live indifferently, and (2) to live tolerably well; *to rub down*, (1) (police) to search: the prisoner's arms are raised, the vest unbuttoned, and the officer's hand passed over the body: also *to run the rule over*; (2) to scold, rate, or take to task; *to rub in*, (1) to nag, annoy, or aggravate persistently. Fr., *monster une scie*; (2) to peg away, insist, or exaggerate; *to be rubbed about*, to be made a convenience; *to rub out* (tailors'), to cut out; also (3) (colloquial) to forget old grievances, cancel a debt: also *to rub off*; *to rub out*, to kill: hence *rubbed out*, dead; *to rub up*, (1) to refresh the memory, (2) to polish, and (3) to touch a tender point or remembrance: hence *to rub up the wrong way*, to irritate, to annoy: also *to rub on the gaule*; *to give a rub of the thumb*, to explain or show the way.

Rubbacrock. A filthy slattern, a puzzle (q.v.).

Rubbage (or **Rubbidge**). Rubbish.

Rubber. 1. A round of three games: also *rub*. 2. A slight reproof; reflections upon any one . . . a rencounter with drawn swords (*B. E.*) 3. In pl., indiarubber over-shoes, goloshes.

Rubber-neck (or **Rubber**). To crane one's neck; hence, to see everything. Also *to rubber around*, to keep one's eyes open.

Rubbish. Money: generic: see Rhino.

Rubric. *In* (or *out of*) *the rubric*, in (or out of) holy orders.

Rub-rub. 'Us'd on Greens when the Bowl Flees too fast, to have it forbear, if Words wou'd do it' (*B. E.*).

Ruby. Blood, claret (q.v.), grog-blossom (q.v.). Hence, *ruby face*, a very red face.

Ruck. 1. The mob. 2. Rubbish. *To come in with the ruck* (or *to ruck in*), to come in unnoticed, or (racing) unplaced. As verb, (1) to inform, split (q.v.); (2) to turn rusty; (3) to drag or crease. *To ruck* (or *rucket*) *along* (Oxford University) to walk quickly.

Ruction. An uproar.

Ruddocks (or **Red**, or **Golden, Ruddocks**). Money: specifically gold: also *ruddy*. [Formerly gold was conventionally red — a girdle of gold so red, and good red gold.] Cf. Ridge and Redge (1570).

Rudesby. A rude boisterous person. [*Johnson* (1745), a low word.] Cf. Sneaksby, Idlesbie, Wigsby, etc. (1593).

Rudge-gown. An outcast: also *rug-gown*. Whence *rug-gowned*, meanly; *rugheaded*, shock-headed (1597).

Rue. Repentance: as *rue-quarrel* to repent and withdraw; *rue-bargain*, smart-money.

Ruff. 1. An old-fashioned double band (*B. E.*). 2. A court card: hence *to ruff*, to trump. 3. Ruff's *Guide to the Turf*. *The wooden ruff*, the pillory.

Ruffian. 1. Spec. the Devil: also *old ruffian*. Whence, 2. any one behaving roughly or severely: as a magistrate, or a brutal bully or assassin (*B. E.*); also a pugilist all spirit and no science; and so forth. As adj., (1) wanton; (2) brutal; and (3) violent. As verb, (1) to pimp, (2) to bully, and (3) to maul. Also *ruffianly* (or *ruffinous*), wanton, outrageous. *Ruffian cook ruffian*, he scalded the devil in his feathers, said of a bad cook. *Ruffian's-hall*, 'So that part of Smithfield was antiently called, which is now the horse-market, where tryals of skill were plaid by ordinary ruffianly people with sword and buckler.' (*B. E.*)

Ruffle. A handcuff: usually in pl. *The Ruffle*, the flourish to a trick at cards: the deck held firmly at the lower end by the left hand is rapidly manipulated by the right hand with a crackling noise. See Ruffler.

Ruffler (Ruffle, or Ruffling Roister.) 1. Spec. (in Statute 27 Hen. VIII.), a sham soldier or sailor): whence, 2. a bully, cheat, or violent or swaggering blackguard (also *ruffler*). (1) To plunder, rob: spec. with menaces and imprecations; and (2) to swagger, flaunt it, put on side (q.v.) or be turbulent; *ruffery*, violence; *ruffered*, boisterous; and *ruffle*, to dispute (1537).

Ruffmans. A hedge (1567).

Ruff-peck. Bacon (1567).

Rufty - tufty. Rough, boisterous, indecent (1592). As intj., Hey-day.

Rug. 1. A Rugbeian. 2. A sort of drink. 3. A tug. As verb, to pull roughly; *to get a rug*, to get a share, get there (q.v.) (1300). *All rug*, all right, certain (1696). See Bug and Ruggins.

Ruge. See Rouge.

Rugger. Football: the Rugby game.

Ruggin's. Bed; *at rug*, asleep: e.g. the whole gill is safe at rug, the household are asleep (*Grose*).

Ruin. See Blue Ruin.

Rule. To *run the rule over*, to search, frisk (q.v.).

Rule - of - thumb. A rough-and-ready way: practical rather than exactly scientific (*Grose*).

Rum (Rome, Roome, or Ram). adj. (Old Cant). 1. A generic appreciative, good, fine, clever, excellent, strong, etc. (1567): cf. sense 2 and Queer; whence *rumly*, bravely, cleverly, delicately; *rum-beak* (or *beck*), a Justice of the Peace; *rum-bing* (or *bung*), a full purse; *rum-bit* (or *bite*), (1) a clever rogue; and (2) a smart trick; *rum bleating-cheat*, a fat wether; *rum - blowen* (or *blower*), a handsome mistress; *rum-bluffer*, a jolly host; *rum-bob*, (1) a young apprentice, (2) a clever trick, and (3) a smart wig; *rum-booze* (*bouse*, *buse*, *buze*, or *bouze*), (1) wine, or (2) good liquor of divers kinds; *rum - boozing - welt*, a bunch of grapes; *rum - bubber*, a good thief; *rum-buffer* (or *bugher*), a valuable dog; *rum-chant*, a good song; *rum - chub* (butchers'), an ignorant buyer; *rum-clank*, a gold or silver cup; *rum-clout* (or *wipe*), a silk handkerchief; *rum - cod*, (1) a full purse, and (2) a large sum of money; *rum-cole*, new money; *rum-cove* (or *cull*), (1) a clever rogue, (2) a rich man, (3) a lover, and (4) an intimate: also *rum-cull* (theatrical), a manager, or boss; *rum - degen* (*tol*, or *tilter*), a splendid sword; *rum - dell* (*doxy* or *mort*), a handsome whore; *rum-diver*, a clever pickpocket; *rum-drawers*, silk stockings; *rum-dropper*, a vintner; *rum-duke*, (1) a handsome man, (2) a jolly companion, and (3) 'The boldest or stoutest Fellows (lately) amongst the Alsatians, Minters, Savoyards, etc. Sent for to remove and guard the Goods of such Bankrupts as intended to take Sanctuary in those Places' (*B. E.*); *rum-duchess*, a handsome woman; *rum - dubber* (or *file*), an expert picklock; *rum - fam* (or *fem*), a diamond ring; *rum-fun*, a clever fraud; *rum-gelt* (or *gilt*), new money; *rum-gill*, (1) a clever thief, and (2) a handsome man; *rum-gagger*, a whining beggar; *rum-glymmer*, a chief link-boy; *rum-going*, fast trotting; *rum-gutlers*, canary; *rum-hopper*, an innkeeper; *rum-kicks*, silver or gold-braided breeches; *rum-ken*, a popular inn or brothel; *rum-kin*, a large mug; *rum-maunder*, a clever beggar; *rum-mizzler*, a thief expert at clearing (q.v.); *rum-mort*, a lady; *rum-one*, a settling blow; *rum-nab*, a good hat; *rum-Nantz*, brandy; *rum-Ned*, a rich fool; *rum - pad*, the highway; *rum-padder*, a highwayman; *rum - peeper*, a silver looking-glass; *rum-peck*, good food; *rum - prancer*, a fine horse; *rum-quidds*, a large booty; *rum-ruff-peck*, Westphalian ham; *rum-squeeze*, fiddlers' drink in plenty; *rum-snitch*, a hard blow on the nose; *rum-topping*, a rich head-dress; *rum-ville*, London. 2. In modern slang (by inversion), indifferent, bad, questionable, odd: as adj., *rummy* (or *rumly*). 3. Anybody or anything odd or singular in habit, appearance, etc.; *rum-Ned*, a silly fellow; *rum-duke*, a half-witted churl; *to come it rum*, to act (or talk) strangely (1729).

Rumble. A seat for servants at the back of a carriage: also *rumble-tumble* (which likewise = a stage-coach). (1830). As verb, to try, search, handle (1821).

Rumbler. A hackney coach. *Rumbler's-flunkey*, (1) a footman, and (2) a cab-runner; *running-rumbler*, a carriage thief's confederate (1816).

Rumbling. 'The rolling of Thunder, motion of a Wheelbarrow, or the noise in the Gutts' (*B. E.*).

Rum-blossom (or bud). A nasal pimple: cf. Grog-blossom.

Rumbo. 1. Rum grog: also *rum-bullion* and *rumbowling*: cf. Rum-booze (1651). 2. A prison: also *rumbo-ken*. 3. Stolen rope (*Clark Russell*). As adj., good, plenty.

Rumbo-ken. 1. A pawnbroker's shop. 2. A prison: also *rumbo* (1724).

Rumbowline (or **Rambowline**). 1. Condemned stores: rope, canvas, etc.; whence, 2. anything inferior or deteriorated: as adj., adulterated. See Rumbo.

Rumford. *To ride to Romford*, to get new breeched. [*Grose*: Rumford was formerly a famous place for leather breeches: a like saying is current of Bungay.] Also proverbial, You may ride to Rumford on this knife, it is so blunt (1700).

Rum-gagger. A sailor who begs (*Clark Russell*).

Rumgumption, Rumbumption. A class of colloquialisms compounded with an intensive prefix: (1) *ram* (imitatively varied by *rum*), very, strong; and (2) *rum* (q.v.), good, fine, etc.: also cf. ramp, as in rampageous. Thus, *rambunctious* (or *rambustious*), noisy, high-and-mighty; *rambustion*, a row; *rambumptious*, conceited, self-assertive; *rumbumption*, conceit, cock-sureness; *rumgumption*, mother-wit; *ramgumptious*, shrewd, bold, rash; *ramfeezled*, exhausted; *rambuskious* rough; *ramgunschoch*, rough; *ramshackle*, rickety, crazy. Substantives are similarly formed: e.g. *rambunction*, *rambumption*, *ramgumption*, etc., whilst such variants as *rummelfumption*, *rumble-gumption*, *rumstrugenous*, and the like are coined at will. Also *rumbusticator*, a man of means, and *ramstam*, a headlong fool, and as adj., deliberately or undilutedly silly (1762).

Rum-hole. A grog-shop: see Lush-crib. *Rum-homee* (or *omer*) *of the case*: see Omer.

Rum-Johnny. A native wharf labourer.

Rumkin. 1. A drinking vessel. 2. A tailless fowl.

Rumly (or **Romely**). See Rum.

Rummy. See Rum.

Rum-mill. A grog-shop, lush-crib (q.v.).

Rump. 1. The posteriors. As verb, (1) to slight; to flog. Also subs., (2) fag end: spec. (political) the remnant of the Long Parliament after Pride's Purge (1653); whence *rumper*, a long Parliamentarian. He hath eaten the hen's *rump* (*Ray*), said of a person full of talk (1625).

Rump-and-dozen. An Irish wager: i.e. A rump of beef and a dozen of claret (1785).

Rump-and-kidney Men. Fiddlers that play at feasts, fairs, weddings, etc., and live chiefly on the remnants, or victuals (*B. E.*).

Rump-and-stump. Entirely, completely.

Rumpty (Stock Exchange). The thirty-second part of a pound sterling, a tooth (q.v.).

Rumpus. 1. A row, noise, disturbance. 2. A masquerade. Also as verb and adj. (1819).

Rum-slim (or **Rum-slum**). Punch.

Rum-sucker. A toper, lushington (q.v.).

Rum Tom Pat. A clergyman.

Rumtitum. On prime twig, in fine order or condition; a flash term for a game bull (*Grose*).

Rum-'un. See Rum.

Run. Generic for freedom or continuance. Thus, *run* (*of dice, cards*, or *luck*), a spell or period of good or bad fortune; *run* (of a play, book, fashion, etc.), the course of representations, sale, popularity; *the run of things*, the state of affairs; *the run of a place*, freedom of range: *the run of one's teeth* (or *knife and fork*), victuals for nothing; *a run on a bank*, a steady call, through panic, on its resources; *cattle-run*, a farm where cattle roam at will; *a run to town* (or *into the country*), a trip; *to have* (or *lose*) *the run*, to lose sight of; *to get* (or *have*) *the run on*, (1) to turn a joke on, and (2) to have the upper hand; *to have a run*, (1) to take a walk, a constitutional (q.v.); (2) to get an opportunity: see P.P.; and (3) to make a fight for anything; *to run*, to manage; *to run a bluff*, to carry things with a high hand; *to run a buck* (see Buck); *to run for office* (*parliament, congress*, etc.), to start as a candidate; *to run a rig*, to play a trick; *to run a chance* (or *risk*), to take the odds; *to run a tilt at*, to attack; *to run the cutter*, to smuggle; *to run an eye over*, to glance at; *to run the gauntlet* (see Gauntlet); *to run across*, to meet casually; *to run after*, to court; *to run against*, (1) to come in collision with, (2) to calumniate, (3) to attack, and (4) to meet casually; *to run amuck* (see Amuck); *to run away with*, (1) to elope, (2) to steal; *to run away with a notion*, to be over credulous; *to run big*, to be out of training; *to run counter*, to oppose; *to run down*, to pursue, depreciate, attack; *to run dry*, to give out; *to run foul of*, to attack or antagonise; *to run hard*, (1) to threaten, endanger, make difficult, and (2) to equal or almost achieve; *to run high* (1) to be violent, (2) to excel in a marked degree; *to run in*, (1) to arrest, and (2) to introduce; *to run in one's head*, (1) to bear in mind, (2) to remember; *to run into the ground*, to carry to excess; *to run it* (American cadets'), to go beyond bounds; *to run like mad*, to go at the top of one's speed: Fr., *ventre à terre*; *to run low*, (1) to diminish, (2) to be of little account; *to run mad after*, to have a strong desire for; *to run off*, (1) to repeat, (2) to count; *to run off with*, (1) to elope, (2) to carry beyond bounds; *to run off the straight* (see Straight); *to run on*, to keep going: spec. to chatter; *to run on all fours* (see Fours); *to run on pattens* (see Pattens); *to run on the hirl*, to gad, to loaf (q.v.); *to run one's face* (or *shape*), to obtain credit; *to run one's head into a noose*, to fall into a snare; *to run one's tail*, to live by prostitution; *to run one's week* (Am. Univ.), to trust to chance for success; *run one way and look another*, to play a double game; *to run out*, (1) to end, (2) to have had one's day, (3) to be lavish; *to run out on*, to enlarge on; *to run over*, (1) to count, (2) to call to mind, (3) to examine, (4) to describe, and (5) to sum up; *to run riot*, (1) to be violent, (2) to exaggerate, (3) to have plenty, (4) to be active, (5) to disobey; *to run rusty* (see Rusty); *to run sly* (see Sly); *to run smooth*, to be prosperous; *to run thin*, to back out of a bargain; *to run to*, (1) to risk, (2) to suffice, (3) to afford; *to run together*, to grow like; *to run to seed*, (1) to age, (2) to deteriorate; *to run through*, (1) to be uniform, (2) to pervade, (3) to be present, (4) to kill, and (5) to be prodigal; *to run up*, (1) to increase, (2) to build, and (3) (see Runner-up); *to run up an account*, (1) to get credit, (2) to get into debt, and (3) to charge; *to run up bills*, to obtain goods with no intention of paying; *to run upon*, (1) to quiz, (2) to require; *to run to waste*, (1) to empty, (2) to fritter away; *to run wild*, (1) to romp (q.v.), and (2) to riot; *by* (or *with*) *a run*, suddenly; *a run for one's money*, a good time in exchange for a certain expenditure of energy and cash; *run off one's legs*, (1) exhausted, (2) bankrupt; *a near run*, (1) a close finish, (2) a bare escape, (3) cheek by jowl; *run after*, in repute; *run down*, seedy, poor. Also proverbs and sayings, To *run* through thick and thin; His shoes were made of *running* leather; To *run* a wild-goose chase; The coaches won't *run* over him (i.e. He's in gaol); He that *runs* may read (said of things unmistakably plain); To *run* where the devil drives; *Run* tap, *run* tapster (*Ray*: of a tapster that drinks so much himself and is so free to others that he is fain to run away); To hold with the hare and *run* with the hounds.

Runabout. A gadabout, vagabond.

Runaway Preston - pans (The Great). The 13th Hussars. [A panic seized some of the men in the fight with the Jacobite rebels.] Also The Green Dragoons; The Ragged Brigade; The Evergreens; and The Geraniums.

Run - down. The bridge between stage and auditorium: Fr., *practicable* and *pont*.

Runner. 1. A figure or letter placed down the length of the page to indicate the particular number or position of any given line. 2. A tout: e.g. (Stock Exchange), a broker's assistant with a private canvassing connection; (racing), a messenger stationed at a telegraph office to get early information; (old gaming), a gambling - house watchman whose duty was to apprise the approach of the police; (American), (*a*) a steamboat and railroad tout: see Ticket-scalper; and (*b*) a commercial traveller. 3. A police officer: also *Bow Street runner*: occasionally a sheriff's officer. 4. A wave: cf. Roller. 5. A smuggler: also a crimp, a single rope rove through a movable block, and (formerly) a vessel sailing without a convoy in time of war [*Clark Russell.*]

Runner - up. 1. In coursing, the

hound taking second prize, losing only the final course against the winner; whence, 2. any competitor running second or taking second place; whence *run up*, the race from the slips to the first turn of the hare: see *to run up*.

Running. Pace, staying power; whence, *in* (or *out*) *of the running*, (1) in (or out) of competition; (2) qualified (or not); (3) likely to win (or not); *to make good running*, to do well; *to make good one's running*, to do as well as one's rival; *to make the running*, to force the pace; spec. (racing) to start a second-rate horse at a high speed with a view of giving a better chance to a stayer belonging to the same owner; *to take up the running*, (1) to increase one's pace, (2) to take the lead or most active part. As adj. hasty. As prep., approaching, going on for: cf. Rising.

Running-glasier. A thief: a sham glazier.

Running-leather. *To have shoes of running leather*, to be given to rambling.

Running (or **Flying**) **Patterer** (or **Stationer**). A hawker of ballads dying-speeches, newspapers, and books: cf. Pinner-up.

Running-rumble. See Rumbler.

Running-smobble. Snatching goods off a counter, and throwing them to an accomplice, who brushes off with them (*Grose*).

Running-snavel. A thief whose speciality is the kinchin-lay (q.v.): see Snaffle.

Runt. A term of contempt: specifically of an old woman. Whence *runty*, surly, boorish. Also a short, squat man or woman (cf. Welsh runts, small cattle].

Run-to-seed. Pregnant.

Ruof. Four.

Rural. A rustic.

Rush. Generic for violence. Whence (1) as subs., robbery with violence: distinguished from a ramp (q.v.), which might refer to the lifting of a single article, whereas the rush involves cleaning out (q.v.); hence (2) any swindle; and, as verb, to rob, cheat, extort (e.g. I rushed the old girl for a quid): also *the rush dodge*, and *to give one the rush*. Into modern colloquial usage *rush* enters largely: as (3) extreme urgency of affairs; (4) a great demand, a run (q.v.); (5) a stampede of horses and cattle; (6) a mellay; (7) in Amer. schools, (*a*) a gabbled or brilliant recitation, and (*b*) a very successful pass; (8) a forward's work at football: whence a scrimmage (q.v.) or play in which the ball is forced; (9) the lowest minimum of value: cf. Straw, Rap, Cent, etc. (1362). As verb, (1) to hurry, force (or advance) a matter with undue haste; (2) to go for an opponent blindly: chiefly pugilists'; (3) to charge or attack wildly; and (4) at football, (*a*) to force a ball, (*b*) to secure a ball by forcing. Also *to do a rush*, to back a safe-'un (q.v.), and (among bookmakers' touts) to bet flash (q.v.), to induce business to bonnet (q.v.). Whence rusher, (1) a cheat, a thief (spec. a thief working a house insufficiently guarded) (2) a man of sensational energy, as a ranting divine, a bawling politician, a reckless punter, a wild-hitting pugilist; and (3) a forward good at running ball-in-hand or forcing the play (football). Also, *to roam on the rush*, to swerve from the straight at the spurt for the finish; *on* (or *with*) *a rush*, with spirit, energetically; *on the rush*, on the run, hard at it; *to rush the season*, to anticipate social and other functions; *to rush a bill* (parliamentary), to put a bill through, (*a*) without debate, or (*b*) by closuring the Opposition.

Rush-ring. *To marry with a rush-ring*, (1) to marry in jest; and (2) to feign marriage.

Rush-buckler. A violent bully.

Russia. A pocket-book, reader (q.v.).

Russian-law. 'A 100 blowes on the bare shins' (*Day*, 1641).

Rust. (1) To collect old metal and dispose of it to the marine-store dealers. *To nab the rust*, to take offence, get restive: cf. Rusty. English synonyms: to chew oneself, to comb one's hair, to cut up rusty, to get dandered (or one's dander up); huffed or huffy, in a pelter, in a scot, in a wax, one's mad up, on the high ropes, the needle, the monkey up, the monkey on one's back, popped, shirty, the spur, waxy, to have one's bristles raised, one's shirt or one's tail out, to lose one's vest, to be miffed, to pucker up, to squall, to stand on one's hind leg;

to throw up buckets; (2) to receive punishment unexpectedly; (3) to take money.

Rustic. A clownish country fellow (*B. E.*).

Rusticate. To banish by way of punishment, send down (q.v.): hence *rustication*.

Rustle. To bestir oneself, grapple with circumstances, rise superior to the event; whence *rustler*, (1) an energetic resourceful man; and (2) a rowdy, a desperado: spec. (Western States) a cattle-lifter. *Rustling*, active, energetic, smart (q.v.).

Rusty. An informer. As adj. (also *resty*), ill-tempered, sullen, restive, insolent, or (*Grose*) out of use: whence *to ride rusty* (or *nab the rust*): see Rust; *rusty-guts*, a churl (1362).

Rusty-fusty-dusty. Begrimed malodorous, and dirty.

Rusty Buckles (The). The Second Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays]: also The Bays.

Rut. *To keep a rut*, to play the meddler, make mischief.

Rutat (or Rattat). A potato, a tatur.

Ry. A dishonest practice, sharp dodge.

Ryder. A cloak.

Rye. See Romany.

Rye-buck. All right; O.K. (q.v.)

Sa. Six.

Sabbath-day's journey. A short walk: also (ironically) an excuse for not stirring.

Sabe (save, or savvy). Shrewdness, nous (q.v.), gumption (q.v.).

Sable Maria. See Black Maria.

Sabin. A whimster (1637).

Saccer. The sacrament: cf. Soccer, Rugger, Brekker, Collecker.

Sacheverel. The iron door, or blower, to the mouth of a stove: from a divine of that name who made himself famous for blowing the coals of dissension in the latter end of the reign of Queen Anne (*Grose*).

Sack. A pocket. As verb, to pocket; *to dive into a sack*, to pick a pocket. Phrases are: *To give* (or *get*) *the sack* (*bag, billet, bullet, canvas, kick-out, mitten, pike*, or *road*), to give or get discharge: from employment, office, position, etc.: see Bag; also *to sack* and *to bestow* (or *get*) *the order of the sack*; *to buy the sack*, to get drunk; *to break a bottle in an empty sack*, a bubble bet, a sack with a bottle in it not being an empty sack (*Grose*); *more sacks to the mill!* (1) Pile it on! a call to increased exertion, and (2) plenty in store.

Sacrifice. The surrender, or loss of profit. As verb, to sell regardless of cost.

Sad. Mischievous, troublesome, of little account, merry, fast: as *a sad dog*, (1) a wicked debauched fellow (*Grose*); and (2) a playful reproach (1706).

Saddle. A charge upon the proceeds of a benefit performance. Phrases: *To put the saddle on the right horse*, (1) to blame (or praise) where justly due, and (2) to cast a burden where best borne; *to suit one as a saddle suits a sow*, to become ill, to be incongruous; *to saddle a market* (Amer. Stock Exchange), to foist a stock on the market; *to saddle one with a thing*, to impose a thing on, to constrain to accept an unwelcome gift; He has a *saddle* to fit every horse, He has a salve (or remedy) for every sore (or mishap); *to saddle the spit*, to give a dinner or supper; *to saddle one's nose*, to wear spectacles; *to saddle a place* (or *pension*), to oblige the owner to pay a certain portion of his income to some one nominated by the donor (*Grose*); *saddle-leather*, the skin of the posteriors; *saddle-sick*, galled by riding.

Saddleback. A louse: see Chates.

Sadly. Indifferent in health.

Safe. Trustworthy, certain: e.g. So-and-so is *safe* enough, He is certain to meet his engagements; *safe to be hanged*, sure of the gallows; *safe as houses* (*the bellows, coons, the Bank—anything*), perfectly sure; *a safe card*, a wide-awake fellow; *a safe-'un*, a horse not meant to run, nor, if he runs, to win; also stiff-'un (q.v.) dead-'un (q.v.), or stumer (q.v.)

with such an entry a bookmaker can safely operate (1624).

Sails. A sailmaker (1835). Phrases: *To sail in*, to put in an appearance, or take part in a matter; *to take the wind out of one's sails*, to run foul of, to spoil sport; *to sail near* (*close to*, or *too near*) *the wind*, (1) to run risks, (2) to act with caution, (3) to live closely to one's income, and (4) to verge upon obscenity; *How you sail about*, How you saunter about.

Sailor's-blessing. A curse.

Sailor's-pleasure. Yarning, smoking, dancing, growling, etc. (*Clark Russell*).

Sailor's-waiter. A second officer on a merchantman: the crew call him the sailor's-waiter, as he has to furnish them with spun yarn, marline, and all other stuffs that they need in their work.

Saint. A piece of spoiled timber in a coachmaker's shop, like a saint, devoted to the flames (*Grose*). Phrases and derivatives: *St. Anthony's pig*, a scholar of the City of London School; *St. Geoffrey's Day*, never: see Queen Dick; *St. Giles's breed*, fat, ragged, and saucy (*Grose*); *St. Giles's Greek*, cant, slang (q.v.), peddler's French; *St. Lawrence's tears*, the Perseides: a shower of meteors appearing from 9th to 11th August; *St. Lubbock's day*, a bank-holiday; *St. Luke's bird*, an ox; *St. Marget's ale*, water: see Adam's Ale; *St. Martin's evil*, drunkenness; *St. Martin's ring*, a copper-gilt ring; *St. Martin's lace*, imitation gold lace, stage tinsel; *St. Monday*, a holiday taken on Monday to recover from the effects of the Sunday's rest: whence *Mondayish*, lazy: see Cobbler's Sunday and Shoemaker's holiday; *St. Nicholas* (see Nicholas); *St. Patrick* (or *St. Patrick's well*), the best whisky; *to borrow St. John* (see Borrow); *to dine with St. Anthony* (cf. Duke Humphrey); *the 'spital stands too nigh St. Thomas a' Waterings*, Widows who shed most tears are sometimes guilty of such indiscretions as render them proper subects for the public hospitals (*Hazlitt*); *saint of the saucepan*, an expert cook.

Sake. *For sake's sake* (*any sake*, *goodness sake*, etc.), a strong appeal. *For old sake's sake*, for auld lang syne (1670).

Sal. Salary.

Salad. 1. When an officer on board ship is wakened and fails to obey the summons, but has another nap, it is called *taking a salad*. 2. A lettuce.

Salad-days (or **Stage**). The days of youthful simplicity, inexperience (1608).

Salamander. (1) Anything fireproof, and (2) a fire-eating juggler (circus).

Salesman's-dog. A shop tout, barker (q.v.).

Salisbury. A lie.

Sally. See Aunt Sally.

Sallinger's- (or **Sallenger's**—i.e. **St Leger's**) **Round.** *To dance Sallinger's-round*, to wanton. [*Sallinger's round*, a loose ballad and tune, *tempus* Elizabeth.]

Salmagundy (or **Salmon-gundy**). 1. Salt beef from the brine, sliced and mixed with an equal quantity of onions, with pepper and salt, and brought into consistence with oil and vinegar. 2. A cook.

Salmon (or **Salomon**). The mass, the Beggar's Sacrament or Oath (1536).

Salmon-and-trout. The mouth: see Potato-trap.

Salt. 1. A sailor: esp. an old hand: also *salt-water*. 2. Money: specifically (Eton College) the gratuity exacted at the now obsolete triennial festival of the Montem (q.v.): also (generic), a measure of value. 3. pointed language, wit: whence *salt-pits* (old Univ.), The store of attic wit (1580). As adj., (1) wanton (1598). *Salt-water*, urine; (2) costly, heavy, extravagant: generic for excess: e.g. *as salt as fire*, as salt as may be: also *salty*. As verb, to swindle: specifically to cheat by fictitiously enhancing value: e.g. *to salt books*, (1) to make bogus entries showing extensive and profitable business; *to salt an invoice*, to charge extreme prices so as to permit an apparently liberal discount; *to salt a mine*, to sprinkle (or plant, q.v.) a worn-out or bogus property with gold dust, diamonds, etc., with a view to good sales, and so forth: hence *salter*, a fraudulent vendor. (2) To be-jewell profusely: see To salt a mine. (3) On a particular day, the senior undergraduates in the evening called the freshmen to the fire, and made them hold out their chins; whilst one of the seniors with the nail of his thumb (which was left long for that purpose) grated off all the skin from the lip to the chin, and then obliged him to drink a beer glass of water and salt (Martin, *First Lord Shaftesbury*, 1. 42). Phrases: *with a grain of salt*, under reserve: Lat.; *not worth one's salt*, unworthy of hire; *to eat one's salt*, to be received as a guest or under protection: *salt* also, hospitality; *to put* (*cast*, or *lay*) *salt on the tail*, to ensnare, achieve: as children are told to catch birds; *to come after with salt and spoons* (of one that is none of the Hastings, *B. E.*); *man of salt*, a man of tears.

Salt-box. A prison cell: specifically (Newgate), the condemned cell: Fr., *abattoir.*

Salt-box-cly. An outside pocket with a flap.

Saltee (or **Saulty**). A penny: see Rhino.

Salt-eel. A rope's-end; *to have salt-eel for supper*, to be thrashed (1696).

Salt-horse (or **Salt-junk**). Salt beef: also *old-horse* (or *junk*) which see (1857).

Saltimbanco. A street clown, a Jim Crow, a Billy Barlow: Fr., *pitre.*

Salt River. A cant phrase: an unlucky wight, who has failed to be elected to some public office, was rowed up Salt River. If very grievously defeated, they were apt to be rowed up to the very headwaters of Salt River (*De Vere*).

Salts-and-senna. A doctor.

Salubrious. 1. Drunk: see Screwed. 2. Pretty well, thank you.

Salve. Praise, gammon (q.v.); cf. Lip-salve.

Sam. A Liverpudlian: also *Dicky Sam. To stand Sam*, to pay the shot, to treat (q.v.).

Sambo. A negro: generic: c. 1558, a tribe of Africans is called Samboses.

Sammy (or **Sammy-soft**). A fool. As adj., foolish (1837).

Sample. To drink: see Lush. *Sample-room*, a drinking bar.

Sample-count. A traveller, ambassador of commerce (q.v.).

Samson (or **Sampson**). 1. A drink made of brandy, cider, sugar, and a little water (*Halliwell*). 2. (Durham School). A baked jam pudding.

Samson and Abel (Oxford University). A group of wrestlers in the quadrangle of Brasenose [Some said it represented Samson killing a Philistine; others Cain killing Abel: the matter was compromised.]

Samson's-posts. A mousetrap so constructed that the capture is crushed to death.

Sand. 1. Moist sugar. 2. Energy, spirit, go (q.v.). *To eat sand*, to shorten a watch by turning the glass before it is quite run out, is called eating of sand. If the sun is not seen for days together . . . it has happened that an helmsman has eaten so much sand, that day has been changed into night, and the night into day (1743).

Sandbag. 1. A long sausage-like bag of sand dealing a heavy blow that leaves no mark: also as verb, and *sandbagger*. 2. In pl., The Grenadier Guards. Also Old Eyes, Coalheavers, Housemaids' Pets, and Bermuda Exiles (q.v.).

Sandboy. *As happy* (*jolly*, or *merry*) *as a sandboy*, All rags and all happiness . . . a merry fellow who has tasted a drop (*Bee*).

Sandgate-rattle. A quick and violent stamping dance.

Sand-man (or **Sandy-man**). When sleepy children begin to rub their eyes *the sand-man* (or *dustman*) *is coming.*

Sandpaper. 1. To smooth down. 2. To be well quizzed or roasted (q.v.).

Sandwich. 1. A man carrying two boards slung over his shoulders, back and front, as an advertisement: also *sandwich man*: see Toad-in-the-hole. 2. A gentleman between two ladies: cf. Bodkin; Thorn between two roses, etc.: Fr., *âne à deux pannières.* As verb, to insert between dissimilars.

Sandwich-boat. See Bumping-race.

Sandy. A Scot: short for Alexander (1500).

Sandy-pate. A red-haired man or woman.

Sangaree. A drunken bout (*Halliwell*).

Sank (**Sanky**, or **Centipers**). A soldiers' tailor: whence *sank-work*, making up soldiers' clothes.

Sap (**Saphead, Sap-pate,** or **Sapscull**). 1. A fool: *sappy* (or *sapheaded*, etc.), foolish, namby-pamby, lazy (1665). 2. A hard worker, diligent student, hash (Charterhouse): also as verb, to read hard, swot (q.v.). 3. Ale: see Drinks. As verb, to booze (q.v.): *sappy-drinking*, excessive drinking.

Sappy. 1. Severe: of a caning. 2. See Sap.

Sarahs. Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincoln Deferred Stock.

Sarah's Boots. Sierra Buttes Gold Mining Co.'s Shares.

Sardine. 1. A sailor: spec. an old whaling hand. [The living space on board a whaler is limited.] 2. One of the crowd: see Herring. *Packed like sardines*, huddled. 3. In pl., Royal Sardinian Ry. Shares.

☞ **Sark** (Sherborne School). To sulk.

Sassenger (or **sassiger**). A sausage.

Satan's Bones. See Bones.

Sate-poll. A stupid person.

Satin. See White Satin.

Saturday-nighter (Harrow School). An exercise set for Saturday night.

Saturday - scavenger (or **scaramouch**). See Weekly Scarifier.

Saturday-soldier. A volunteer.

Saturday - to - Monday. A week-end jaunt.

Satyr. A cattle-thief.

Sauce (Sarse, Sass, or Sauciness). 1. Impudence, assurance (1555): hence *saucy*, (*a*) impudent, bold, presuming; and (*b*) smart (q.v.); as verb (or *to eat sauce*), to abuse, to lip (q.v.); *sauce-box* (*sauce-pate, sauceling*, or *sauce-jack*), an impertinent: see Jack-sauce. 2. Vegetables: whence *garden-sauce*, a salad; *long-sauce*, carrots, parsnips, beet, etc.; *short-sauce*, potatoes, turnips, onions, etc.: whence any accessory or sequel, (1705). 3. Money: see Rhino. Phrases: *To serve with the same sauce*, to minister or retaliate in kind (1609); *What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander* (1700); tit-for-tat (q.v.); *carrier's-* (or *poor man's-*) *sauce*, hunger: cf. Hunger is the best sauce; *More sauce than pig*, exceeding bold.

Saucepan. *To have the saucepan on the fire*, to be set on a scolding bout. *The saucepan runs* (or *boils*) *over*, You are exceeding bold (*B. E.*).

Saucebox. 1. The mouth. 2. See Sauce.

Saucers. Eyes: spec. large, wide-opened eyes: also Saucer-eyes (1599).

Saucy Greens. The 2nd Batt. Worcester Regiment, formerly the Thirty-Sixth Foot. [From the facings 1742-1881).

Saucy-Jack. See Saucy, and Jack.

Saucy Pompeys. See Pompadours.

Saucy Sixth (**The**). The Royal Warwickshires, formerly The 6th Foot. Also Guise's Geese; and The Warwickshire Lads.

Saucy Seventh (**The Old**). The Seventh (The Queen's Own) Hussars (in the Peninsula): also The Lily-white Seventh, Young Eyes, Old Straws, and Strawboots.

Saunter. To loiter idly (*B. E.*).

Savagerous. Savage.

Save. To set part of one bet against another, hedge (q.v.). [Two persons back different horses, agreeing, if either wins, to give the other, say £5, who thus saves a fiver. Also, as in pool, to save the stakes. Likewise to keep a certain horse on one side, not betting against it, saving it as a clear winner for oneself: hence saver, a bet so made.] *Hang saving*, blow the expense. See Bacon.

Save-all. A stingy person, miser.

Savers. Halves!

Save - reverence. See Sir-Reverence.

Saving-chin. A projecting chin: that catches what may fall from the nose: cf. Nutcrackers.

Savey (or **Savvy**). 1. To know; as subs., understanding, wit, nous (q.v.). 2. To have, know, do, and all the other verbs that be.

Saw. 1. The alternate trumping by two partners of suits led for the purpose; a ruff: also *see-saw*, and as verb. 2. A hoax: also as adj. and verb: Fr., *scie*. *Saw your timber!* Be off! Cut your stick (q.v.). *Held at the* (or *a*) *long saw*, held in suspense.

Sawbones. A surgeon, flesh-tailor (q.v.).

Sawder (or **Soft-sawder**). Soft speech, blarney (q.v.).

Sawdust (or **Sawdusty**). 1. Humbug: also as adj. 2. A variety of the confidence trick.

Sawney (or **Sawny**). 1. A lout. As adj., stupid (1567). 2. A Scot, Sandy (q.v.). 3. Bacon; also stolen cheese; hence, *sawney-hunter*, a bacon thief.

Sawneying. Soft-speaking, pimping, carneying (q.v.).

Sawyer. A snag: a fallen tree, rising and falling with the waves.

Say. See Ape's Paternoster; Boh; Jack Robinson; Knife; Mouth; Nothing; Parson; Prayers; Te Deum; Thing; When.

Say-so. An assertion; also a mild oath: *on my say-so*, On my word of honour: also *sammy say-so*. *You say you can, but can you?* You lie.

Scab. 1. A rascal: spec. a constable or sheriff's officer: often jocular. Hence *scabby* (or *scab*), contemptible; beggarly; *scabby-sheep*, a ne'er-do-weel: also *scabilonian* (1591). 2. A workman who refuses to join, or continues at work during a strike; a blackleg (q.v.); generally applied to all non-Union men: Fr., *flint*. 3. A button-hole.

Scabbado. Syphilis (1725).

Scabby. Unevenly printed, blotchy.

Scabby-neck. A Dane.

Scab-raiser. A drummer. [One of whose duties was to wield the cat.]

Scad. An abundance: hence in pl., money, resources.

Scadger. A mean fellow, a cadger (q.v.).

Scaff (Christ's Hospital). A selfish fellow: the adj. forms are *scaly* (and *scabby*), mean, stingy.

Scaff-and-raff. Refuse, rabble, riff-raff (q.v.).

Scaffolders. Spectators in the gallery, the gods (q.v.) (1599).

Scalawag (or Scallawag). 1. Anything low class. 2. (*Century*) Used in the Southern States, during the Reconstruction period (1865-76) in an almost specific sense, being opprobriously applied by the opponents of the Republican party to native Southerners who acted with that party, as distinguished from Carpet-bagger, a Republican of Northern origin. As adj., wastrel, shrunken, profligate: cf. Carpet-bagger.

Scaldabanco. 'One that keepes a seate warme, but ironically spoken of idle lectures that possesse a pewe in the schooles or pulpet in churches, and baffle out they know not what; also a hot-headed puritane' (*Florio*).

Scalder. Tea.

Scaldings! (Winchester). Be gone! Be off! Also a general warning, Look out!

Scald-rag. A dyer (1630).

Scaldrum-dodge. The art of burning the body with a mixture of acids and gunpowder, so as to suit the hues and complexions of the accident to be deplored. *Scaldrum*, a beggar.

Scales. See Shadscales.

Scallops. An awkward girl (*Halliwell*).

Scalp. 1. To sell under price; to share commission or discount: e.g. *to scalp stock*, to sell stock regardless of value; *ticket-scalping*, the sale of unused railway tickets, or tickets bought in quantities as a speculation, at a cheaper than the official rate; *ticket-scalper*, a ticket broker. 2. (*a*) To ostracise for rebellion, and (*b*) to ruin one's influence.

Scaly. Shabby, mean, fishy (q.v.).

Scaly-fish. An honest, rough, blunt sailor (*Grose*).

Scamander. To loaf (q.v.).

Scammered. Drunk: see Screwed.

Scamp. 1. A highway robber (also *scampsman*); and, 2. highway robbery (also *scampery*): whence as verb, to rob on the highway; *royal-scamp*, a highwayman who robs civilly; *royal-foot-scamp*, a footpad behaving in like manner; *done for a scamp*, convicted. 3. A rogue; an arrant rascal; sometimes (colloquial) in jest: hence *scampish*, roguish, tricky; *scampery*, roguery. As verb] to do carelessly and ill, give bad work or short measure.

Scamper. 'To run away, or Scowre off, either from Justice, or Thieves, Debtors, Criminals, that are pursued; or from ill fortune, as Soldiers that are repulst or worsted' (*B. E.*).

Scandal-broth (chatter, or water). Tea, cat-lap (q.v.).

Scandalous. A periwig.

Scandal-proof. 1. 'A thorough pac'd Alsatian, or Minter, one harden'd or past Shame' (*B. E.*). 2. 'One who has eaten shame and drank after it, or would blush at being ashamed' (*Grose*).

Scanmag. Scandalous jobber, pettifogging slander, talk. [Short and derisive for *Scandalum magnatum*.]

Scant-of-grace. A scapegrace (1821).

Scape. A cheat (1599). As verb, to neglect one's brush (*Bee*).

Scape-gallows. One who deserves but has escaped the gallows (*Grose*).

Scape-grace (or thrift). A good-for-nothing, a ne'er-do-well (1577).

Scaramouch. 1. A buffoon. 2. A disreputable rascal. [*Stanford*: It. *Scaramuccia*, the braggart buffoon of Italian comedy.] (1662). 3. A puppet.

Scarborough-warning (leisure, scrabbling). No warning at all; the blow before the word.

Scarce. *To make one's self scarce*, to retire (1749).

Scare. *To scare up*, to find, discover: e.g. to scare up money.

Scarecrow. A scarecrow is a boy who has served a thief until he is well known to the police, and is so closely watched that he may as well stay at home as go out.

Scarehead. A line in bold type calculated to arrest attention.

Scarlet. *To dye scarlet*, to drink deep (1598). *To wear scarlet*, (1) to win the higher University degrees; (2) to attain sheriff or aldermanic rank. [Which were scarlet-robed.] (1610).

Scarlet-fever. Flirtation with soldiers: Fr., *culotte-* (or *pantalon-*) *rouge*: cf. Yellow-fever.

Scarlet-horse. A hired hack (*high-red*).

Scarlet Lancers (The). See Red Lancers.

Scarlet-runner. 1. A Bow Street officer, Robin-redbreast (q.v.). [They wore scarlet waistcoats.] 2. A footman.

Scarlet-town. Reading [Berks.]

Scarlet-woman. The Church of Rome.

Scarper. To run away.

Scat. Begone!

Scate. A light-heels (*Halliwell*). As verb, to be loose in the bowels (*Halliwell*).

Scatteration. A commotion, dispersal. Hence *scatterationist*, a politician running his personal fads without reference to either party or public.

Scatterbrain. An unreasoning ass; *scatterbrained*, giddy.

Scattergood. A spendthrift (1577).

Scatter-gun. A shot-gun.

Scatterling. A vagabond (1599).

Scavenger's-daughter. An instrument of torture invented by Sir W. Skevington, Lieutenant of the Tower of London, *temp.* Hen. VIII.

Scew. See Skew.

Scellum. A thief: cf. Skellum (1630).

Scene. An exhibition of feeling or temper. *Behind the scenes*, having access to information not open to the general public; in the know (q.v.).

Scene-rat. An extra in ballet or pantomime.

Scheme (Winchester). A candle on reaching a measured point ignites paper, which by burning a string releases a weight; this falls on the head of a boy to be waked.

Schism-shop. A dissenting meeting-house; *schism-monger*, a dissenting parson: amongst Catholics any Protestant church or chapel.

Schitt (Winchester). A goal: at football: see Gowner. [*Wrench*: This was the word in general use till 1860, when it was superseded by goal.]

Schliver. A clasp-knife.

Schol (Harrow). 1. A scholar. 2. A scholarship.

School. A party of persons met together for the purpose of gambling. Also (modern) any small band of associates, as thieves or beggars working together, a set of passengers travelling regularly by the same train, etc. Hence *schoolman*, a companion, a mate.

Schooling. 1. A term of confinement in a reformatory. 2. Pitch-and-toss.

School-butter. A flogging.

Schoolmaster. 1. See Bilk. 2. A horse good at jumping: generally ridden with one in training.

School-street. The University (Oxford Univ.).

Schooner. A tall glass: containing twice the quantity of an ordinary tumbler: *three-masted schooner*, a schooner of extra size. See Prairie Schooner.

Schwassle-box. See Swatchel-cove.

Scissorean-operation. Gutting a book.

Scissors. *To give one scissors*, to pay out, to cut up (q.v.): also *Scissors!* an exclamation of disgust or impatience.

Scissors-and-paste. Compilation: as distinguished from original work: Fr., *travailler à coups de ciseaux* (to compile).

Scob (Winchester College). An oak box with a double lid, set at the angles of the squares of wooden benches in school: used as desk and book-case. [Probably the word has been transferred from the bench itself, and comes from Fr., *escabeau*, Lat., *scabellum*.] *Wrench* (1620).

Scoff (or **Scorf**). 1. To eat: also as subs., food. 2. To run away, skedaddle (q.v.): also *to scoff* (or *scuff*) *away*.

Scoffer. Plate.

Scoldrum. See Scaldrum.

Schollard. A scholar.

Scolopendra. A prostitute: i.e. a ramping thing with a sting in its tail.

Scold's Cure. A coffin: the blowen has napped the scold's cure; the wench is in her coffin (*Grose*).

Sconce. 1. The head (*Grose*). 2. Sense, judgment, brains (1567). 3. A fine, a score: hence *to build a sconce* (or *to sconce*), (1) to run up a score; spec. with no intention of paying; (2) to be mulcted in fines; and (3) to pay out, to chastise (1630). As verb, (1 to 3), see subs.; (4) to reduce, discontinue: e.g. *to sconce one's diet*, to bant (q.v.): *to sconce the reckoning*, to reduce expenses; (5) to hinder, get in the way: as of a kick at football, a catch at cricket, etc.: e.g. If you had not sconced, I should have made a flyer.

Sconick. To hurry about, shin about (q.v.): also *to sconick round*.

Scoop. 1. A big haul; an advantage: spec. (journalists') news secured in advance of a rival, a series of beats (q.v.). 2. On 'Change, a sudden breaking down of prices, enabling operators to buy cheaply, followed by a rise. As verb, (1) to make a big haul; (2) to get the better of a rival; (3) to fetch, fit; (4) to gulp (whalers'): the whale gets into a patch of food or brit (resembling sawdust on the surface of the water) . . . goes through it with only the head out and mouth open: as soon as a mouthful of water is obtained the whale closes its lips, ejects the water, the feed being left in the mouth and throat. *On the scoop*, on the drink, or a round of dissipation.

Scoot (**Skoot**, or **Skute**). To move quickly; *on the scoot*, on the run; *scooter*, a restless knockabout; *scoot-train*, an express.

Scorcher. Anybody or anything severe, eccentric, or hasty. Spec. *to scorch*, to ride a bicycle, drive a motor, etc., at top speed: whence *scorching*, hot (q.v.).

Score. To get the better of: also *to score off one*.

Scorf. See Scorf.

Scorpion-of-the-brow. Accrochecœurs, the beau-catchers, bell-ropes or aggravators (q.v.).

Scot. 1. A person easily vexed; esp. one given to resent company sport; the diversion is called *getting one out* (or *round the corner*). 2. Temper, a paddy (q.v.).

Scotch. 1. Scotch whisky: cf. Irish. 2. See Scotch-peg. Phrases: *Scotch-bait*, a halt and a resting on a stick, as practised by pedlars (*Grose*); *Scotch-casement*, the pillory; *Scotch-chocolate*, brimstone and milk; *Scotch-coffee*, hot water flavoured with burnt biscuit; *Scotch-fiddle*, the itch; *to play the Scotch-fiddle*, to work the index finger of one hand like a fiddle-stick between the index and middle finger of the other; *Scotch Greys*, lice: hence *headquarters of the Scots' Greys* a lowsy head; *Scotch-hobby*, a little sorry, scrubbed, low horse of that country (*B. E.*); *Scotch-mist*, a soaking rain; *Scotch-ordinary*, the house of office; *Scotch-peg* (rhyming), a leg: also Scotch; *Scotch-pint*, a bottle containing two quarts; *Scotch-prize*, a capture by mistake: cf. Dutch; *Scotch-seamanship*, all stupidity and main strength; *Scotch-warming-pan*, a chambermaid; *to answer Scotch fashion*, to reply by asking another question; cf. Yankee fashion (1675).

Scotchman. A florin. *Flying Scotchman*, the daily 2 p.m. express from Euston to Edinburgh and the North: cf. Wild Irishman. *The Scotchman hugging the creole*, a parasitical creeper.

Scots (**The**). The 1st Batt. Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), formerly The 26th Foot (1762).

Scott. See Great Scott.

Scoundrel. 1. A Hedge-bird or sorry Scab (*B. E.*). 2. A man void of every principle of honour (*Grose*).

Scour. To run away: also *to scour away* (or *off*). *To scour the darbies* (or *cramp-rings*), to go (or lie) in chains (1573).

Scourer (or **Scowrer**). 1. Drunkards, beating the watch, breaking windows, clearing the streets, etc. (*B. E.*). 2. A night-thief. *To scour the streets*, to act riotously (1700).

Scout. 1. A college servant—valet, waiter, messenger, etc., in one (1750). 2. A watchman, or (modern) a spy, esp. a police spy: hence *scout-ken*, a watch-house (1754). 3. A watch (1688). 4. A mean fellow, scab (q.v.) (1749). As verb, to shoot pigeons outside a gun-club enclosure *To scout on the lay*, to go in search of booty (1787).

Scowbank. A term of contempt for a sailor.

Scrag (or **Crag**). 1. The neck; colquarron (q.v.): as verb, (1) to hang; and (2) to throttle: hence *scragging*, an execution: *scrag-boy*, the hangman; *scragging-post* (*scrag-squeezer* or *scrag*), the gallows; *scragg-'em fair*, a public execution (1555). 2. A raw-bones: hence *scraggy*, lean, thin. 3. (Shrewsbury School). A duck's egg and a rent across the paper. *To scrag a lay*, to steal clothes put on a hedge to dry, go snowy-hunting (q.v.).

Scragg's Hotel. The workhouse.

Scramble. A feed of any kind: usually with a qualifying subs.: as tea-scramble, muffin-scramble, toffee-scramble, etc.

Scran. 1. Food: spec. broken victuals. 2. Refuse. 3. A meal: hence *scran-bag*, a haversack, or tommy-bag (q.v.); *on the scran*, begging. *Bad scran to ye!* (Irish), a mild malediction (1724). 4. The reckoning at a public-house.

Scrap. 1. A fight, rough-and-tumble (q.v.): also *scrap-up*: hence *scrapping* (or *scrapping-match*), prize-fighting or boxing; *scrapper*, a pugilist. 2. A blow (1610). 3. A villainous scheme or plot (*Grose*); *to whiddle the whole scrap*, to discover a plot.

Scrape. 1. Trouble, difficulty (1741). 2. An obeisance: also as verb, to salute by scraping the feet; *scrape-shoe*, a sycophant: see Leg (1632). 3. A shave: hence *scraper*, (*a*) a razor, and (*b*) a barber; and as verb, to shave. 4. Cheap butter: whence *bread and scrape*, (*a*) bread very thinly spread with butter, and (*b*) short commons: *scrape* also, short shrift. 5. A turn at fiddling: also *scraping*; as verb, to fiddle; *scraper* (or *gut scraper*), a fiddler: see Catgut-scraper (1607). 6. A miser: also *scraper*, *scrape-penny*, *scrape-all*, *scrapescall*, and *scrapegood*: as verb, to stint, deny (1631). *To scrape the enamel*, to scratch the skin: by a fall. See Acquaintance; Leg.

Scraper. A cocked hat. See Scrape, Catgut-scraper, Elbow-scraper.

Scraping. A mode of expressing dislike to a person, or sermon, practised at Oxford by the students, in scraping their feet against the ground during the preachment; frequently done to testify their disapprobation of a proctor who has been, they think, too rigorous (*Grose*).

Scrape-trencher. A glutton.

Scrappy (Scrappiness, and Scrappily). Made up of odds and ends, in driblets; without system.

Scratch. 1. A hermaphrodite: also *scrat*. 2. A swaggerer (*Halliwell*). 3. The itch (*Halliwell*): hence *scratchland*, Scotland: cf. Scots Greys. 4. A miserly man (*Halliwell*). 5. In handicaps (*a*) a starting line for those contestants allowed no odds, (*b*) the time of starting, (*c*) a start, (*d*) contestants starting from the scratch-line; in boxing, a line drawn across the ring (q.v.) to which boxers are brought for a set-to: hence *to come* (or *bring*) *up to* (or *toe*) *the scratch*, to be ready, willing. 6. A fluke (q.v.). As adj., generic for chance: hap-hazard, hasty, first come first served: thus a *scratch-crew* (*team*, or *company*), a crew, etc., got together at short notice and without special selection; *scratch-race*, a contest, unrestricted by conditions, a go-as-you-please affair; *a scratch-meal*, a pick-up (q.v.) meal; etc., etc.; also *to scratch along*, to manage somehow. As verb, (1) to expunge, blot-out; spec. (*a*) to reject a horse, a candidate, etc.; and (*b*) to retire; (2) to scribble: as subs., a scrawl; *scratcher* (U. S.), a daybook (1745). Phrases: *No great scratch*, of little value; *Old Scratch* (q.v.); *to scratch one's wool*, to try one's memory, puzzle out; *Scratch* my breech and I'll claw your elbow, Ka me, Ka thee, (q.v.); *not a sixpence to scratch with*, penniless.

Scratched. Drunk: see Screwed (1630).

Scratcher. An independent elector, a bolter (q.v.). See Scratch.

Scrawny. A thin, ill-made man or woman, *rasher of wind* (q.v.).

Screamer. 1. An exceptional person or thing: hence *screaming*, first-rate, splendid: spec. as causing screams of laughter. 2. A thief who, robbed by another thief, applies to the police; in American a squealer (q.v.).

Screech. Whisky: see Old Man's Milk.

Screecher. Anything harsh or strident: hence *screechy*, loud mouthed.

Screed. *Screed o' drink*, (1) a full supply; whence (2) a drinking bout (1815).

Screen. A bank note (1785). Hence *screen-faking*, fingering notes; *queer-screens*, counterfeit paper: cf. Screeve (1821).

Screeve (or Screave). 1. Anything written: a begging letter, testimonial, chalk pavement work, etc. 2. A bank note (Scots'): cf. Screen. Screeveton, the Bank of England. As verb, to write, draw; *screever* (or *screeve-faker*), (1) a cheeky beggar; (2) a pavement-artist.

Screw. 1. An extortioner, miser: as verb, to coerce into paying or saving money, or making a promise, yielding one's opinion, vote, person, etc.: also *to screw up* (or *out*), and *to put on* (or *under* or *turn*) *the screw*; *screwy* (or *screwing*), mean (1696). 2. (*a*) An unnecessarily minute examination; and (*b*) a screw; the instructor is often designated by the same name. 3. An old or worthless horse: whence (loosely) anything old; *screwy*, worn-out, worthless (1835). 4. A small roll of tobacco: usually costing 1d. 5. (common). Money earned. 6. A turnkey: Fr., *raf* and *griffleur*: as verb, to imprison: also *to put under the screw*; *screwing*, a term of imprisonment (1821). 7. A skeleton-key: as verb, to burgle: spec. by means of false keys; *the screw* (or *screw - game*), burglary; *screwsman*, a burglar; also to stand *on the screw* (*Grose*), the door is not bolted, merely locked. 8. A prostitute. 9. A dram, pick-me-up (q.v.). 10. A stomach-ache (*Halliwell*). *A screw loose*, something wrong (*Grose*: a complete flash phrase).

Screwed (or Screwy). Drunk, tight (q.v.). Synonyms: [Further lists will be found under Drinks, Drunk, D.T.'s, Gallon - distemper, Lush, Lush-crib, and Lushington.] To be afflicted, afloat, alecied, all at sea, all mops-and-brooms, in one's armour, in one's altitudes, at rest, *Bacchi plenus*, battered, be-argered, beery, bemused, a bit on, blind, bloated, blowed, blued, boozed, bosky, a brewer, bright in the eye, bubbed, budgy, buffy, bung - eyed, candy, canon (or cannon), chirping - merry, chucked, clear, clinched, concerned, corked, corkscrewed, corky, corned, crooked, in one's cups, cup-shot, cut, dagged, damaged, dead - oh! disguised, disorderly, doing the Lord (or Emperor), done over, down (with barrel-fever: see Gallon-distemper), dull in the eye, full of Dutch-courage, electrified, elephant's - trunk (rhyming), elevated, exalted, far gone, feeling funny (or right royal), fettled (or in good fettle), fighting-tight (or drunk), flawed, floored, fluffed, flummoxed, flushed, flustered, flustrated, flying-high, fly-blown, fogged (or foggy), fou (Scots), on fourth, foxed, fresh, fuddled, full, full-flavoured, full to the bung, fuzzy, gay, gilded, glorious, grape-shot, gravelled, greetin'-fou', groggy, hanced, half-seas-over, happy, hard-up, hazy, heady, hearty, helpless, hiccius-doccius, hickey, high, hockey, hoodman, in a difficulty (see Gallon - distemper), incog, inspired, jagged, jolly, jug-bitten, kennurd (back slang, drunk), all keyhole, kisk, knocked - up, leary, lion drunk, in Liquor-pond Street-loaded, looking lively, lumpy, lushy, making indentures with one's legs, malted, martin-drunk, mashed, mellow, miraculous, mixed, moony, mopped, moppy, mortal, muckibus, muddled, mugged, muggy, muzzy, nappy, nase (or nazy), noddy - headed, noggy, obfuscated, oddish, off (off at the nail, or one's nut), on (also on the bend, beer, batter, fuddle, muddle, sentry, skyte spree, etc.: see Flare-up and Floored), out (also out of funds, register, altitudes, etc.), overcome, overseen, overshot, over - sparred, overtaken, over the bay, palatic, paralysed, peckish, a peg too low, pepst, pickled, piper-drunk (or merry), ploughed, poddy, podgy, potted-off, pot-shot, pot-sick, pot-valiant, primed, pruned, pushed, queered, quick-tempered, raddled, rammaged, ramping-mad, rather touched, rattled, reeling (or tumbling), ripe, roaring, rocky, salubrious, scammered, scooped, sewn up, shaky, three (or four) sheets in the wind, shot, shot in the neck, slewed, smeekit, smelling of the cork, snapped, snuffy, snug, so, soaked, sow-drunk, spiffed, spoony-drunk, spreeish, sprung, squiffed (or squiffy), stale-drunk, starchy, swattled, swiggled, swilled, swinnied, swine-drunk, swiped (or swipey), swivelly, swizzled, taking it easy, tangle-footed, tap-shackled, taverned (also hit on the head by a tavern bitch, or to have swallowed a tavern token), teeth under, thirsty, tight, tipsy, top-heavy, topsy-boosy, tosticated, under the influence, up a tree, up in one's hat, waving a flag of defiance, wet, wet-handed, what-nosed, whipcat (*Florio*), whittled, winey, yappish (yaupy or yappy). Also, to have a guest in the attic, the back teeth well afloat, a piece of bread and cheese in the head, drunk more than one has bled, the sun in one's eyes, a touch of boskiness, a cup too much, a brick in the hat, a drop in the eye, got the flavour, a full cargo aboard, a jag on, a cut leg, the malt above the wheat, one's nuff, one's soul in soak, yellow fever. Also, to have been barring too much, bitted by a barn mouse, driving the brewer's horse, biting one's name in, dipping rather deep, making M's and T's, paid, painting the town red, shaking a cloth in the wind. Also, to wear a barley cap, to cop the brewer, to let the finger ride the thumb, to lap the gutter, to need a reef taken in, to see the devil, to take a shard (or shourd), to shoe the goose, to see one apiece.

Scribbler's-luck. An empty purse and a full hand.

Scribe. See One eyed Scribe.

Scrimshanker. A loafer: cf. Bloodsucker; whence *scrimshank* to shirk duty.

Scrimshaw (or Scrimshander). The art, if art it be, of manufacturing useful and ornamental articles at sea: handsome writing desks, toilet boxes, and work-boxes made of foreign woods, inlaid with hundreds of other pieces of precious woods of various shapes and shades. Also *scrimshon* and *scrimshorn*.

Scrip. A promise to pay in writing.

Scroby. *To be tipped the scroby* (or *claws*) *for breakfast*, to be whipped before the justices (*Grose*).

Scroof (or Scroofer). A parasite: as verb, to sponge (q.v.).

Scrope. A farthing: see Rhino.

Scrouger. Anything exceptional in size, quality, capacity, etc. (1847).

Scroyle. A diseased wretch: Fr., *écrouelles*, King's-evil (1596).

Scrub. 1. Any mean, or ill-conditioned person or thing; as adj., paltry, mean: also *scrubbed*, and *scrubby*; *scrub-race*, a contest between contemptible animals (1598). 2. (American University). A servant. As verb (Christ's Hospital), (1) to write fast: e.g. *scrub* it down: also as subs., handwriting [Lat., *scribere*]; (2) to drudge.

Scrubbado. The itch (1696).

Scrubber, subs. (Australian). Cattle left to run wild in the mountains (1859).

Scrubbing (Winchester): obsolete. A flogging of four cuts.

Scrudge. A prostitute.

Scruff. The lowest quality of cod. As verb, to hang: see Ladder.

Scrumptious. First-class, nice, fastidious (1835).

Scrunch. 1. A hard bite, crushing blow; and 2. (figuratively) a complete effect of tyranny; as verb, to crush, grind down, squeeze; *scruncher*, a glutton.

Scud. (1) A fast runner; and (2) a hot spin (q.v.); (3) in pl., money: see Rhino. As verb, to sail, ride, or run very fast (*B. E.*).

Scuddick. 1. The smallest item of value. 2. Generic for money.

Scuff. A crowd.

Scuffle-hunter. A loafer about wharfs, quays, and warehouses under pretence of asking employment as porters and labourers: their chief object is to pillage and plunder whatever comes in their way.

Scufter. A police officer.

Scug (Eton and Harrow). A sneak (q.v.); a play-cad (q.v.).

Sculduddery (or **Skulduggery**). Bawdry; also as adj. (1713).

Scull (University). 1. The head (or master) of a College; hence *scull-race*, an examination. 2. In pl., a waterman using a pair of sculls or short oars (q.v.). 3. A one-horse chaise or buggy (1785).

Scullery-science. Phrenology.

Scull - thatcher. 1. A wig-maker (1785). 2. A hatter: see Nob-thatcher.

Sculpin. A mean or mischief-making fellow [Local slang, New Eng.] (*Century*).

Scum. The Riff-raff, or Tagrag and Long - tail (*B. E.*). As adv., enough.

Scumber (or **scummer**). Excrement: as verb, to defecate (1598).

Scumble. To glaze a picture.

Scurf. A shabby fellow. As verb, to arrest; lay hold of (1785).

Scurrick. A halfpenny: see Rhino.

Scurry. A short race run for amusement by inferior horses or non-winners: cf. Scab-race.

Scute. A small coin: hence a low standard (1596).

Scuttle. 1. An affected gait. 2. A hasty move; a bolt (q.v.): as verb, to run off (1704). As verb (Christ's Hospital, Hertford), (1) to cry out under oppression, to attract the attention of the authorities; hence *scuttle-cat*, one who scuttles (obsolete); (2) to stab. *To scuttle a nob*, to break a head. *On the scuttle*, on a round of dissipation.

Scuttling. A practice once very prevalent within the county of Lancaster. The offence was committed by a body of young persons, male and female, belonging to one part of the city, who had a real or fancied grievance against another similar body of persons from an adjacent part. The opposing forces were armed with belts with large buckles to them, knives, pokers, stones, and the like, and the mobs so armed turned out at times for a regular affray, and inflicted serious injuries upon one another. Not only did these roughs enter into conflict with others of a similar class, but they frequently attacked unoffending passers-by.

Scuttle - mouth. A large-shelled oyster.

Sea. *At sea*, puzzled, wide (q.v.): cf. Half-seas - over. Phrases and combinations: *Sea - crab*, a sailor; *sea-dog*, (1) a privateer (*temp.* Eliz.), and (2) a sailor; spec. an old salt (q.v.); *sea-galloper*, a special correspondent; *sea-grocer*, a purser; *sea-lawyer*, (1) a shark, and (2) a captious or scheming fo'csle hand: whence *sea-lawyering*, argument with officers; *sea-legs*, ability to walk the deck of a rolling ship without staggering; *sea-wag*, an ocean-going vessel; *sea-rat* (old), a pirate: cf. River-rat; *sea-rover*, a herring: see Atlantic ranger; *son of a sea-cook*, a nautical term of abuse; *sea-connie* (or *cunnie*), (1) the helmsman on an Indian trader, and (2) a Lascar quartermaster; *sea-coal*, money.

Seal. A preacher is said to be owned when he makes many converts, and his converts are called his seals. In Mormon phraseology, all wives taken after the first are called spiritual wives, and are said to be sealed to the husband . . . under the solemn sanction of the church, and in all respects, in the same relation to the man as the wife that was first married.

Sealer. One that gives bonds and judgments for goods and money (*B. E.*): see Squeeze-wax.

Seam. See White-seam.

Sear. *Light* (or *tickle*) *of the sere*, wanton, fond of bawdy laughter (1596).

Seat. See Back-seat.

Seat - of - Honour, (Shame, or **Vengeance).** The posteriors (1725).

Secesh. See Blue Bellies.

Second. See Bow, Chop, Fiddle, and String.

Second Peal. See Peal.

Second - timer. A prisoner twice convicted.

Secret. *Let into the secret*, when one is drawn in at horse-racing, cock-fighting, bowling, and other sports or games, and bit (*B. E.*). *In the grand secret*, dead.

Sedgley - curse. 'A Sedgly curse light on him, which is, Pedro, The fiend ride through him booted and spurred With a sythe at his back' (*Fletcher*).

See. 1. In pl., the eyes (1785) also *seer*, the eye. 2. A sight, glance. As verb, (1) to believe, credit, consent: e.g. I don't see that. Phrases: *To see it out*, (1) to finish a matter, (2) to keep up a carouse, and (3) to come to an understanding, or know the reason why; *to see one through*, to help to a finish; *to see a man*, to have a drink; *to see the devil*, to get tipsy: see Screwed; *to see the back of*, to get rid of; *to see one coming*, to impose on; *to see double*, (1) to be drunk: see Screwed, and (2) to squint; *to see one's aunt*, to evacuate: see Bury a Quaker; *to see as far into a millstone* (or *milestone*) *as*—, to be as able or cute as—; *to see stars* (*spots* or *candles*), to be dazed: spec. from a blow. Also see Brickwall, Elephant, Show, etc.

Seed. *Run to seed*, shabby, gone off the bloom, seedy (q.v.).

Seedy. Generic for depreciation, (1) weak or out-of-sorts in health, (2) worn or out at elbows in dress, (3) poor in pocket, (4) suspicious or shady in character. Hence, *seediness* (1743).

Seek. *To seek others and lose oneself*, to play the fool (1598).

Seek - sorrow (or **trouble**). A whining malcontent (1580).

Seeley's pigs. Pig iron in Government dockyards. [Some of the yards were half paved with pigs, which waste was brought to public notice by Mr. Seeley, M.P. for Lincoln.]

See - saw. A double ruff (q.v.), a saw (q.v.): at whist.

Seggon. A term of contempt: spec. a poor labourer. Also *seg-head*, a blockhead; *seg-kite*, an over-grown and greedy person (1577).

Sell. A successful hoax, swindle: see Gammon. As verb, to betray, impose on, swindle; see Bargain. Whence *to sell a pup*, to fool; *to be sold like a bullock in Smithfield*, to fall badly by treachery; *Sold again!* Done! (q.v.) (1597).

Semi-bejan. See Bejan.

Semper (Winchester). A very common prefix; e.g. a boy was said to be semper continent, tardy, or extrumps if he was often at Sick House, or late for Chapel, or habitually went up to Books without having looked at his lessons. An official who was always at the College meetings went by the name of Semper Testis (*Mansfield*).

Send. *To send up*, to commit to prison, fully (q.v.) (1852). *To send down* (or *away*), (1) to expel; and (2) to rusticate (q.v.) (1714). *To send in*, to drive or break in: Hand down the jemmy and send it in; apply the crow to the door and drive it in (*Grose*). See Coventry, Daylight, Flea in the ear, Green River, Owls, Packing, Salt River, Up.

Send - off. A start, God - speed. *Send-off notice*, an obituary (1870).

Sender. A severe blow.

Sensation. A small quantity; as much as can be perceived by the senses: spec. a half-quartern.

Sense. To feel, take in, understand (1651).

Sentimental - club (The). The Athenæum.

Sentinel. A wake candle, glim (q.v.): Fr., *flambarde*.

Sentry. *On sentry*, drunk: see Screwed.

Sentry - box. *Chelsea Hospital to a sentry-box*, a fanciful bet.

Sep. A cadet joining in September.

Separate. The first eleven or twelve months' probationary imprisonment, solitary confinement.

Serene. See All Serene.

Sergeant. See Come.

Sergeant - major. A fat loin of mutton.

Sergeant - major's brandy - and - soda. A gold-laced stable jacket.

Sergeant - major's wash cat. (1) A new kit; and (2) the troop storeman.

Serpent. *Stung by a serpent*, with child (*Ray*). *To hold a serpent by the tail*, to act foolishly.

Servant. A lover *en parade* (1396).

Serve. 1. To rob: e.g. I served him for his thimble, I robbed him of his watch (1785). 2. See Servant, and Time. 3. To find guilty, convict, and sentence (1785). 4. To maim, wound, punish (q.v.): whence *to serve out*, to take revenge; *to serve out and out*, to kill (1785). *To serve up*, to ridicule. See Slops.

Sessions. An exclamation of surprise.

Set. 1. A determined stand; *to get set*, to collar the bowling. 2. A grudge, a sustained attack: in argument or conduct: also *dead-set*. Phrases: *To set the hare's head to the goose giblets*, to balance matters, give tit for tat; *to set jewels*, to take the best portions of a clever book not much known to the general public, and incorporate them quietly in a new work by a thoroughly original author: the credit of this term belongs to Mr. Charles Reade, who explained that the process is accountable for the presence of some writing by one Jonathan Swift, in a story published at Christmas, 1872, and called *The Wandering Heir*; *all set*, desperate fellows, ready for any kind of mischief (*Duncombe*). See Cap, Dead-set, Ears, Hard-set, Shoulder, Wheel.

Set-back. See Back-set.

Set-down. 1. A snub; an unexpected or overwhelming reply: also as verb, to take to task, rebuff, get the better of (1749). 2. A square meal.

Set-off. 1. A contrast, an alternative, a quid pro quo (q.v.) (1749). 2. An adornment, an ornament (1619).

Set-out. A company, clique, display, or turn-out — any arrangement, state of things, or event (1816).

Setta. Seven: also *setter*.

Setter. 1. 'The nature of the Setter is to draw any person familiarly to drinke with him, which person they call the bonie' (*Grose*); 'They that draw in Bubbles, for old Gamesters to Rook; also a Sergeant's Yeoman, or Bailiff's Follower, or Second, and an Excize-Officer to prevent the Brewers defrauding the King' (*B. E.*); 'That make it their Business to go about upon information, to pry into the Disposition and Avenues of Houses, and bring notice of the Booty' (*Hall*); also (modern) a police spy: see Nark (1591). 2. A runner-up of prices; a bonnet (q.v.). *Clock-setter*, (1) one who tampers with the clock to shorten his watch; also (2) a busy-body, a sea-lawyer (q.v.) (*Century*).

Settle. 1. To knock down, do for (q.v.); *to settle one's hash* (see Hash); hence *settler*, (*a*) a knock-down blow; and (*b*) a finishing stroke. 2. To give (or get) penal servitude for life.

Settler. 1. A parting drink: see Screwed. 2. See Settle.

Set-to. 1. A bout at fisticuffs, with, or without, the gloves. 2. Determined opposition. Also as verb.

Set-up. 1. Port, bearing, carriage. 2. A treat (q.v.); *to set up*, to stand Sam: cf. Set-down. As adv., conceited.

Seven. *To be more than seven*, wide-awake: also, *more than twelve*.

Sevendible. A very curious word, used only in the North of Ireland, to denote something particularly severe, strong, or sound. It is, no doubt, derived from sevendouble—that is, sevenfold — and is applied to linen cloth, a heavy beating, a harsh reprimand, etc. (*Hotten*).

Seven-pennorth (or **Sevenpence**). Seven years' imprisonment (1821).

Seven-year. A long time: proverbial (1560).

Severely. A generic intensitive: e.g. to be left severely alone, to be altogether neglected.

Sew. *To sew up one's stocking*, to silence, confute (1859).

Sewed up (pugilists'). 1. Severely punished: spec. with bloated eyes. 2. Exhausted, drunk, sick. 3. Grounded: also Sued up.

Sewer. 1. The Metropolitan and Metropolitan District Railways. 2. In pl., The East London Railway Shares. *Common-sewer*, (1) an indiscriminate tippler; (2) the throat; and (3) a receive-all (1749).

Sex. *The sex*, womankind.

Sey (**Se**, or **Say**). Yes: pronounced *See*.

Shab. 1. To mess up, make shabby. *To get* (or *make*) *shabby*, (1) in sorry rigging (*B. E.*), out-at-elbows; and (2) mean, base, seedy (q.v.): whence *shabbaroon* (*shabroon*, *shabrag*, or *shabster*), a ragamuffin, a mean-spirited fellow (*B. E.*): also *shabby-genteel*, aping gentility, but really shabby; *to shab off*, to sneak or slide away (*B. E.*) (1680). 2. To scratch oneself: like a lousy man or mangy dog.

Shabby-woman (**The**). The statue of Minerva which guards the portal of the Athenæum, and looks so little like 'Eve on hospitable thoughts intent'—for since the Athenæum Club was established, no member has ever afforded the simplest rites of hospitality to a friend (1864).

Shack. 1. A shiftless fellow, a vagabond: also *shackaback*, *shackbag*, *shackrag*, a *shakerag*: as verb, to go on tramp, to idle, to loaf: as adj. (also *shack-nasty*), contemptible: cf. *shag-bag* (1740). 2. A log cabin: the average shack comprises but one room, and is customarily roofed with earth, supported by poles: in Canada *shack*, dwelling. 3. A misdirected or returned letter.

Shackle. A raffle.

Shackly (or **Shackling**). Rickety, ramshackle (q.v.).

Shack-stoner. Sixpence.

Shad. A prostitute.

Shadbelly. A Quaker: the Quaker coat from neck to skirt follows the ventral line of the shad—hence *shad-bellied*, sloping in front like a Quaker coat: cf. Cutaway.

Shade. In pl., wine-vaults. As verb, to conceal, keep secret.

Shadkin. A marriage-broker.

Shadow. 1. A spy or close attendant: e.g. (*a*) a detective; (*b*) a dress-lodger's (q.v.) guard; (*c*) a bosom friend; and (*d*) a jackal (q.v.): as verb, (1) to track, spy, dog (q.v.); and (2) to be inseparable (1607). 2. (Westminster School). When a boy is first placed in the school, he is attached to another boy in the same form, something in the relation of an apprentice; the new boy is called the shadow, the other the substance; in the first week the shadow follows the substance everywhere, takes his place next to him in class . . . and is exempt from any responsibility for his own mistakes in or out of school; during this interval of indulgence his patron is expected to initiate him in all the work of the school . . . in short to teach him by degrees to enter upon . . . a responsible existence of his own (*Collins*). *May your shadow never be* (or *grow*) *less*, may you prosper!

Shadrach. A mass of badly smelted iron. [Cf. Daniel, iii. 26, 27.]

Shadscales (or **Scales**). Money: generic: see Rhino.

Shady. Generic for decadence and deterioration — moral, physical, and material; hence, *on the shady side of* [e.g. 40], beyond (or older) than 40 years of age; *to keep shady*, to keep in the background, to be cautious and reticent (1852). *The shady groves of the Evangelist*, St. John's Wood.

Shaft. *To make a shaft* (or *a bolt*) *for it*, to take a risk for what it is worth, to venture (1596).

Shaftsbury. A gallon-pot full of wine, with a cock (*B. E.*, c. 1696).

Shag. *To shag back*, to hesitate, to hang back, to refuse a fence. *As wet as a shag*, as wet as may be. [*Shag*, cormorant].

Shag- (or **shake-**) **bag** (or **rag**). 1. A poor shabby fellow (*B. E.*); a man of no spirit: a term borrowed from the cock-pit (*Grose*): originally, a beggarly soldier: also as adj., mean, beggarly (1588). 2. A fighting-cock; and so, by implication, a hen of the game (q.v.) (1700).

Shake. 1. Standard of value: usually in the phrase *no great shakes*; anything of small account. 2. A show. *Fair shakes*, a tolerable bargain or chance. 3. In pl., generic for unsteadiness: specifically delirium tremens. 4. A fad: also in combination: as the *milk-shake*, the *vegetarian shake*, etc.; *shook on*, in love with. 5. Generic for quick action: e.g. *a great shake*, a quick pace; *in a brace* (or *couple*) *of shakes* (or *in the shake of a lamb's tail*), instantly. As verb, (1) to steal: e.g. *to shake a swell*, to rob a gentleman; *to shake a chest of slop*, to steal a chest of tea; *to be shook of a skin*, to be robbed of a purse; *Have you shook?* Have you stolen anything, etc.; (2) to shake hands; generally *Shake!* (3) to throw dice, or (printers') quads, to gamble: see Jeff; and *to shake an elbow* (q.v.) (1623); 4. to turn one's back on, to desert. Phrases and colloquialisms: *More than one can shake a stick at*, past counting; *nothing worth shaking a stick at*, worthless; *to shake a foot* (*toe*, or *leg*), to dance; *to shake a loose leg* (see Leg); *to shake together*, to get on well or smoothly; *to shake up*, to upbraid; *to shake a fall*, to wrestle; *to shake up*, to scold; *to shake a cloth in the wind*, to be hanged; *to shake down*, (1) (see Shake-down), and (2) to accommodate oneself to, to settle down; *to shake the ghost into one*, to frighten; *to shake the bullet* (or *red rag*), (1) see Bullet and Red, and (2) to threaten to discharge (tailors'); *to shake up*, to get (American); You may go and *shake your ears*, advice to one who has lost his money (*Ray*) (1602).

Shake-buckler. A swash-buckler, a bully (1570).

Shake-down. 1. An improvised bed: also as verb, to sleep on a temporary substitute for a bed. 2. A brothel kept by a panel-thief (q.v.). 3. A rough dance, a break-down (q.v.).

Shake-lurk. A begging petition: specifically one on account of shipwreck: *shake-glim*, one for fire.

Shaker. 1. The hand: see Daddle. 2. A shirt: see Fleshbag. 3. An omnibus.

Shakerag. See Shagbag.

Shakester. See Shickster.

Shake-up. A commotion, a disturbance.

Shaky. Anything questionable: generic—unstable, insolvent, unwell, dishonest, immoral, drunken, ignorant. *Shakiness*, hesitancy, degeneracy (1841).

Shaler. A girl.

Shalley-gonahey. A smock-frock.

Shallow. 1. An empty-headed Justice of the Peace (cf. Shakespeare, '2 Hen. IV.' III. ii.): whence, 2. a fool; also *shallow-ling* and *shallow-pate* (1615). 3. A low-crowned hat, a whip-hat: whence *lilly-shallow*, a white whip-hat. 4. (*a*) The peculiar barrow used by street traders (also Trolley and Whitechapel brougham: Fr., *bagnole*); and (*b*) a square and oval willow basket, about four inches deep, and thirty inches long, by eighteen broad. 5. A man who goes about half-naked, telling frightful tales about shipwrecks, hair-breadth escapes from houses on fire, and such like calamities: also Shivering Jemmy. *To live shallow*, to live quietly and in retirement, as when wanted (q.v.).

Sham. 1. Generic for false. As subs., (*a*) a cheat, a trick; (*b*) a substitute, as a pillow-sham, false sleeves, fronts, or cuffs: as adj., spurious, counterfeit: as verb, to cheat; to feign: also *to cut a sham*, to play the rogue; *shamocrat*, one who apes rank or wealth (1677). 2. Champagne, boy (q.v.): also *shammy*. See Abraham; Snite.

Shamble. In pl., the legs. Whence *Shake your shambles*, Begone! As verb, to walk awkwardly. *Shamble-legged*, shuffling.

Shambrogue. The shamrock: also *shamroot* (1613).

Shameless. A bold forward blade (*B. E.*).

Sham-leggar. A man offering worthless stuff for sale cheap.

Shammock. To loaf (q.v.).

Shamrock. *To drown the shamrock*, to go drinking on St. Partick's Day (Mar. 17th).

Shan (or **Shand**). Base coin: hence as adj., worthless (1815).

Shandrydan (or **Shandry**). A light two-wheeled, one-horsed cart: hence, any old rickety trap (1843).

Shandy-gaff. Beer and ginger-beer (1853).

Shaney (or **Shanny**). A foo (1800).

Shanghai. 1. A tall dandy [*Bartlett*: In allusion to the long-legged fowls from Shanghai, all the rage a few years ago.] 2. A catapult: also as verb. 3. A glaring daub required by frame-makers for cheap auctions; they are turned out at so much by the day's labour, or at from 12 dollars to 24 dollars a dozen, by the piece; all the skies are painted at once, then all the foregrounds; sometimes the patterns are stencilled; the dealer attaches the semblance of some well-known name, of which there are several, and without initials. 4. Drugging a sailor, when he enjoys himself after a long cruise, on shore, and carrying him, while in a state of insensibility, to a vessel about to depart, where he finds himself, upon his recovery, entered in all forms on the book.

Shank. 1. In pl., the legs; gams (q.v.); *to shank it* (or *to ride shanks's mare*, or *nag*), (1) to go on foot or by the Marylebone stage (q.v.): and (2) to leave without ceremony (1302). 2. The fag end.

Shannon. It is said, persons dipped in that river are perfectly and for ever cured of bashfulness (*Grose*).

Shant. A quart; a pot: e.g. *shant of gatter*, a pot of beer. Also *shanty*.

Sha'n't. Shall not. *Now we shan't be long*, It's all right: a general note of satisfaction or agreement: a street catch of the late nineties.

Shanty. 1. A rough and tumble hut. 2. A public-house. 3. A brothel. 4. A quart. 5. Beer money; also as verb, (1) to dwell in a hut, (2) to take shelter. 6. See Chantey.

Shap. In pl., leather overails, with tags and fringes down the seams.

Shape. In pl., (1) an ill-made man, and (2) a tight-laced girl. Hence *to show one's shape*, (1) to strip:

specifically (old) to peel (q.v.) at the whipping-post, and (2) to turn about and march off; *stuck on one's shape*, pleased with one's appearance; *There's a shape for you*, an ironical comment on a skeleton-like person or animal—rack-of-bones (q.v.); *to travel on one's shape*, to swindle, to live by one's appearance; *to spoil one's shape*, to be got with child; *shape-smith*, a stay-maker; *in good shape*, quite correct; *to cut up* (or *show*) *one's shape*, to frolic. As verb, to turn out; to behave (1369).

Shappo. A hat, the newest Cant. Nab being very old, and grown too common (*B. E.*); also *shappeau*, *shoppo*, *shopo*, *shapo* [Fr., *chapeau*].

Shard. *To take a shard*, to get tipsy: see Screwed.

Share-penny. A miser, a skinflint (q.v.) (1606).

Shark. 1. A greedy adventurer, a swindler: also *sharker*. As verb (or *to live on the shark*), to live by roguery or thieving. Whence *shark-gull*, a flat-catcher (q.v.); *to shark up*, to press, to enlist on terms of piracy; *sharking*, (1) roguery, and (2) greedy, tricky (1590). 2. A custom-house officer: also in pl., the press-gang. 3. One of the first order of pickpockets (Bow St. term, A.D. 1785 — *Grose*). 4. A recruit. 5. At Yale, reckless absence from college duties: of persons and conduct. 6. A lean hungry hog (*Bartlett*). As verb, (1) to fawn for a dinner; (2) see subs.

Sharp. 1. A swindler, 'one that lives by his Witts' (*B. E.*) a rook, (q.v.): the opposite of flat (q.v.): also *sharper*: cf. Sharker: as verb, to cheat; *sharping* (or *on the sharp*) subs. and adj., swindling; *sharper's tools*, (1) fools, and (2) false dice: see Bible-sharp and Flats-and-sharps (1688). 2. A pointed weapon: a sword as contrasted with a foil. 3. An expert. As adj., subtil, ready, quick or nimble-witted, forward, of lively apprehension; also poor and needy (*B. E.*). As adv., to the moment: e.g. I'll be there at five o'clock sharp. *Mr. Sharp*, a similar expression to 'two-pun-ten' (q.v.), to signify that a customer of suspected honesty is about: the shopman asks one of the assistants, in a voice loud enough to be generally heard, Has Mr. Sharp come in yet? the signal is at once understood, and a general look-out kept (*Hotten*). *Sharp as the corner of a round table*, stupid. *Sharp's the word!* 1. Of any one very attentive to his own interest, and apt to take all advantage: sometimes with *and quick's the motion* (*Grose*); also, 2. a call to brisk movement, or ready obedience (1706).

Sharp's Alley Bloodworms. 1. Beef sausages; and 2. black puddings (a noted abattoir near Smithfield).

Sharp-set. 1. Hungry; 2. hard-driven (1577).

Sharpshin. The smallest quantity.

Sharpshooter. A swift clipper-built schooner. See Devil's sharpshooters.

Sharp stick. Persecution, retribution.

Shatterbrain (or pate). A giddy person; *shatterbrained* (or *pated*), heedless, weak in intellect: see Shitterbrain and Shuttlehead.

Shave. 1. A narrow escape, a squeak (q.v.): usually with close, near, etc.: whence *to make a shave* (or *to shave through*), to get through by the skin of one's teeth (1844). 2. A false report, a practical joke, a sell (q.v.) (1854). 3. A money consideration paid for the right to vary a contract, by extension of time for delivery or payment, etc. 4. The proportion of the receipts paid to a travelling company by a local manager. See Shaker. As verb, to extort, to strip, to cheat (1548); hence *shaving* (or *shavery*), (1) usury, and (2) overcharge (with drapers called *shaving the ladies*): also *shaver*, (1) a cheat, a swindler; (2) a banker, broker, or money-lender given to usury; and (3) shaver (q.v.): whence *shaving-shop*, a wild-cat bank (q.v.); *shaving-terms*, make all you can (1548).

Shaved. Drunk: see Screwed (1598).

Shaveling (or Shorling). 1. A monk: cf. Beardling: also, 2. see Shaver (1563).

Shaver. 1. A fellow; a party: spec. (modern), a more or less precocious youngster. 2. A child, and occasionally a woman: also Shaveling and Shave, verb (1586). 3. A short jacket, bum-perisher (q.v.). 4. See Shave.

Shavings. The clippings of money (*B. E.*).

Shay. A chaise.

She. 1. A woman: also *she-one*: cf. He, a man: hence *She-house*, a house under petticoat rule; *she-school*, a girls' school (1602). 2. (Charterhouse). A plum pudding: also *shee*: cf. He.

Shearer's Joy (Australian). Colonial beer.

Shears. *Pair of shears*, a striking likeness; little or no difference: e.g. There's a *pair of shears*, they're as like as two peas. See Knight.

Shebang. A room, a shop, a hut, a tent, a cabin; an engine-house. [*De Vere*:—Shebang . . . used even yet by students of Yale College and elsewhere to designate their rooms or a theatrical or other performance in a public hall, has its origin probably in a corruption of the French *cabane*, a hut, familiar to the troops that came from Louisiana, and constantly used in the Confederate camp for the simple huts, which they built with such alacrity and skill for their winter quarters.]

Shebeen. (1) Any unlicensed place where excisable liquors are sold; whence (2) a low (or wayside) public-house. Also as verb, *shebeening*, and *shebeener*: the last term applies to persons frequenting as well as to those keeping a shebeen.

Shed. To urinate (q.v.): also *to shed a tear*. *To shed a tear*, to take a drink: originally to take a dram of real or short (q.v.).

She-dragon. 1. A vixen, an elderly termagant. 2. A kind of wig.

Sheeney (or Sheney). 1. A Jew, Yid (q.v.): used by Gentiles and by Jews (jocosely by the latter). Whence, 2. a pawnbroker: pawnbroking, like the fruit and fish trade, is mainly (in London at least) in the hands of Jews. Also as adj., base, Jewish, fraudulent: also *sheen*.

Sheep. 1. Sheep, like pigeon (q.v.), is commonly generic for timidity and bashfulness: thus, as subs., a simpleton; *sheep-faced* (or *sheepish*), bashful; *sheep's-head*, a blockhead; *sheep-headed*, stupid; *sheep's heart*, a coward; *sheep-hearted*, cowardly; *Like a sheep's head, all jaw*, said of a talkative person; *old sheepguts*, a term of contempt (1556). 2. (Aberdeen Univ.). A second class-man. Phrases and proverbs: *To wash sheep with scalding water*, to act absurdly; *to lose a sheep* (erroneously *ship*) *for a half-penny worth of tar*, to go niggardly about a business: also proverbially, as well be hung for a sheep as a lamb.

Sheep-biter. 1. A slinking thief; also *sheep-shearer* and *sheep-napper* (the latter, a sheep-stealer); *sheep-biting*, sneaking (1588). 2. 'A poor, sorry, sneaking ill-lookt Fellow' (*B E.*).

Sheep-dog. A companion; a chaperone.

Sheep's-clothing. See Wolf.

Sheep's-eyes. *To cast* (or *make*) *sheep's eyes* (or *lamb's-eyes*), to ogle, to leer: formerly to look modestly and with diffidence but always with longing or affection: Fr., *gingine*r, *lancer son prospectus* (1500).

Sheepskin. (1) The diploma received on taking a degree; also (2) a person who has taken a degree; and (3) a deed or similar document [engrossed on parchment].

Sheepskin-fiddle. A drum. Hence, *sheepskin-fiddler*, a drummer.

Sheepwalk. A prison.

Sheepwash (Winchester). To duck.

Sheet-alley. Bed, blanket-fair (q.v.).

Sheet. *A sheet* [or *three*, or *four sheets*] *in the wind* (or *wind's eye*) more or less tipsy, half seas over (q.v.): see Screwed.

She-familiar. A kept mistress (*Halliwell*).

Sheffield Handicap. A sprint race with no defined scratch (q.v.). The scratch man receives an enormous start from an imaginary flyer (q.v.).

She-flunkey. A lady's maid.

Shekel. In pl., money: generic: see Rhino.

Shelf. *On the shelf*. 1. (general), laid aside, in reserve, past service: Fr., *brûlé*; 2. (military), under arrest; 3. (old), in pawn; 4. (thieves'), transported; 5 (common), dead: whence *off the shelf*, resurrected (1589).

Shell. 1. An undress jacket: also *shell-jacket*. 2. At the end of this room [the Westminster schoolroom] there is a kind of semicircular apse, in which the shell form were formerly taught, and the shape of which is said to have given rise to this name, since adopted at several other public schools (*Collins*). 3. In pl., money: see Rhino: hence *to shell out*, to pay: Fr., *allonger les radis*: *shelling-out*, clubbing money together (1591). 4. A drinking glass. See Brown shell.

Shell-back. A sailor: also *old shell*.

Shell-out. A variety of pool.

S'help. See S'welp.

Shelta. A kind of cryptic Irish spoken by tinkers and confirmed tramps; a secret jargon composed chiefly of Gaelic words disguised by changes of initial, transposition of letters, backslanging, and similar devices. [Discovered by C. G. Leland and announced to the world in his book *The Gypsies* (1882); in 1886 there was a correspondence on the subject in *The Academy*; in 1889 The Gypsy Lore Society was started and several articles on Shelta appeared in its *Journal*; finally in *Chambers's Encyclopædia* (1902) there is a long account of this once mysterious but now fully explained speech.]

Shelve. To hold over part of the weekly bill; the reverse of horsing (q.v.).

Shemozzle (**Shimozzel**, or **Shlemozzle**) (East End). A difficulty. As verb (East End)., to be off, to decamp.

Shenanigan. Bounce, chaff, nonsense, trickery (*Bartlett*, 1877).

She-napper. 'A Woman Thief-catcher; also a Cock (he) or Hen (she) Bawd, a Procuress' (*B. E.*).

She-oak. Colonial brewed ale.

Shepherd. To guard, to keep under surveillance, to chaperon: as a ticket-of-leave man (see Nark), an unmarried woman. Also (football) to head off whilst one's side is running or kicking. At Harrow, *shepherd*, every sixth boy in the cricket-bill who answers for the five below him being present. Also (mining) *shepherding*, consists of sitting by a huge fire with a pipe in your mouth, telling or listening to interminable yarns, . . . grumbling at your present and regretting your past luck, diversified by occasionally lounging up to a sinking party for the purpose of examining the 'tack' thrown up, and criticising the progress made.

Sherbetty. Drunk: see Screwed.

Sheriff. The chief officer of justice within a county is naturally found in combination: thus *sheriff's picture frame*, the hangman's noose: see Nubbing-cheat; *sheriff's-journeyman*, a hangman; *sheriff's ball*, an execution: whence, *to dance at the sheriff's ball and loll out one's tongue at the company*, to hang; *sheriff's bracelets*, handcuffs; *sheriff's hotel*, a prison (1824).

Sherry (or **Shirry**). To run away: also *to shirry off* (1785).

Sherry-fug. To tipple sherry.

Sherry-moor. A fright [*Halliwell*: From the battle of Sheriffemuir when 'all was blood, uproar, and confusion'].

Shet. See Shut.

Shevvle. Cat's meat.

Shicer (or **Shice**). 1. Any worthless person or thing: generic for contempt. Also, 2. nothing, nix (q.v.): e.g. *to work for shice*, to get no payment. Spec. *Shice*, base money; and, as adj., (1) spurious, shabby, bad: also *shicery* and *shirkery*; and (2) tipsy.

Schickster (**Shickser**, or **Schickster**). A woman: specifically (among Jews), (1) a female servant not of the Jewish faith; and (2) a woman of shady antecedents. *Shickster-crabs*, ladies' shoes.

Shif. Fish.

Shift. 1. To eat; and especially to drink: hence *shifter*, a drunkard. 2. To change one's smock, change one's clothes (1695). *To do a shift*, 1. to go away, to change one's quarters. 2. To evacuate. *To shift one's bob*: see Bob.

Shifter. 1. An intriguer: *shifty-cove*, a trickster: also (*a*), a thief; (*b*) a sharper; and (*c*) a drunkard; whence *shifty* (or *shifting*), tricky (now recognised); *shifting*, (1) shuffling, stealing, swindling; and (2), drinking (1567). 2. An alarm: as given by one thief in watching to another on the job (*Vaux*).

Shifting-ballast. Landsmen on board ship: spec. soldiers.

Shig. In pl., money: specifically silver. At Winchester *shig*, a shilling (*Mansfield*, c. 1840).

Shiggers (Winchester). White football trousers costing 10s.: see Shig.

Shikerry. See Shicer.

Shillagalee. A loafer.

Shilling. *To take the King's* (or *Queen's*) *shilling*, to enlist (1702).

Shilling-shocker (or **dreadful**). A sensation novel sold at a shilling: a fashion initiated (1887) by *The Mystery of a Hansom Cab*, by Mr. Fergus Hume: cf. Penny-awful.

Shilly-shally (also **shally-shally**). To trifle, not to know one's mind; *to stand shilly-shally*, to be irresolute. Hence *shilly-shally* (or *shilly-shallying*), indecision. [Shall I? Shall I?]; *shilly-shallier*, a trifler (1630).

Shimmy (or **Shimmey**). A chemise: also (Felsted), a shirt: obsolete.

Shin. (1) Generic for action: spec. to walk, to tramp: also *to shin it*: hence *to shin up*, to climb; *to shin it* (*shin round*, or *break shins*), to go a round of lenders: whence shinner, a borrower; *to shin out of*, to clear off; *to break one's shins* (see above); also (2) to be in a hurry; and (3) to fall against, or over, a person or thing; *against one's shins*, unwillingly (*Ray*): also *shinny*, a negro tramp: cf. Hoboe. To kick on the shins.

Shindy. 1. A dance: in Western America *shindig*, a noisy dance. 2. A disturbance, a quarrel: also *shinty*: whence, 3. a boisterous spree (q.v.). 4. A liking, a fancy.

Shine. 1. A happening, a to-do (q.v.), whether warlike or not; specifically a frolic. 2. A show, or display. 3. A row, a shindy (q.v.); *to cut a shine*, to make a show; *every shine*, every one; as verb, (*a*) to make a stir, or impression, and (*b*) to raise or show money; *to take the shine out of*, (*c*) to outwit, and (*d*) put in the shade; *to shine up* (or *take a shine*) *to*, to make oneself agreeable, have a fancy for. 4. Money: generic: see Rhino. 5. A flash: e.g. from a rifle.

Shiner. 1. A coin: spec. a gold piece: in pl., money: generic: also *shino* and *shinery* (1760). 2. A looking glass (1785). 3. A silk hat. 4. A clever fellow. 5. A boaster: also *shine*, to boast. *The shiners*, the Northumberland Fusiliers, formerly The 5th Foot. [From smart appearance at the time of The Seven Years' War.]

Shine- (or **Shiney-**) **rag.** *To win the shine-rag*, to be ruined, to meet with disaster.

Shinfeast. A good fire (*Halliwell*).

Shingle. A signboard: *to hang out* (or *stick up*) *one's shingle*, to start business; *shingle-splitting*, in hiding for debt. As verb, to chastise. *To have a shingle short*, to be crazy, have a tile loose.

Shingle-tramper. A coastguardsman.

Shining-light. An exemplar (1796).

Shinkin-ap-Morgan. A Welshman (1660).

Shinner. A stocking (1585). See Shin.

Shinny (or **Shiny**). Drunk: see Screwed.

Shinplaster. A small paper note used as money; a printed promise to pay a small sum issued as money without legal security. The name came into early use in the United States for notes issued on private responsibility, in denominations of from three to fifty cents, as substitutes for the small coins withdrawn from circulation during a suspension of specific payments; people were therefore obliged to accept them, although very few of them were ever redeemed. Such notes abounded during the financial panic beginning with 1837, and during the early part of the Civil War of 1861-65. After the latter period they were replaced by the fractional notes issued by the Government and properly secured, to which the name was transferred (*Century*).

Shin-rapper. 1. A disabling blow on the splint bone: also, 2. one who delivers such a blow.

Shinscraper. The treadmill: see Everlasting-staircase.

Ship. A body of compositors working together; one acts as a clicker, takes charge and makes out the general bill which is shared and shared alike: an abbreviation of companionship. As verb, (1) to dismiss, sack (q.v.); (2) to expel, rusticate (American Univ.); (3) to turn out of bed, mattress on top (Sherborne School); and (4) to turn back in a lesson (Shrewsbury School). Ship blown up at Point Nonplus. Exemplifies the quietus of a man when plucked penniless; or, genteelly expelled. Oxf. Univ. cant (*Grose*). See Anno Domini, Home, Pump.

Ship-husband. A seaman who rarely goes on shore.

Ship-in-full-sail. A pot of ale.

Ship of the desert. A camel.

Ship-shape. Spick and span, smart above and below: originally *ship-shape and Bristol fashion.* [Bristol's fame as a port in early days was far higher than now].

Shirk (Eton College: obsolete). Shirking was a marvellous invention. Fellows were allowed to boat on the river, but all the approaches to it were out of bounds; we might walk on the terrace of Windsor Castle, but it was unlawful to be caught in the streets of Windsor which led to the terrace . . . If, out of bounds, you saw a master coming, you had to shirk, which was done by merely stepping into a shop. The master might see you but he was supposed not to see you. The absurdity was . . . that to buy anything in the shops in High Street, where all the school tradesmen dwelt, we were obliged to go out of bounds (*Seven Years at Eton*). *To shirk in* (Winchester), to walk into water instead of plunging. *To shirk out,* to go out contrary to rules: whence *shirkster,* one who shirks.

Shirker. One who prefers the road to cross-country riding: cf. Skirter.

Shirallee. Swag (q.v.); a bundle of blankets.

Shirt. *To get one's shirt out* (or *lose one's shirt*), to make (or get) angry: hence, *shirty,* angry, ill-tempered. Colloquialisms: *To bet one's shirt* (or *put one's shirt on*), to risk all; *to fly round and tear one's shirt,* to bestir oneself; *shirt* (or *flag*) *in the wind,* a fragment seen through the fly, or through a hole in the breech; *that's up your shirt,* that's a puzzler for you. See also Boiled shirt, Bloody shirt, Historical (or Illustrated) shirt.

Shirt-sleevie (Stonyhurst). A dance: on winter Saturday evenings, and sometimes in the open air at the end of summer term. [The costume is an open flannel shirt and flannel trousers.]

Shise. See Shice.

Shivaroo. A spree.

Shiver. In pl., the ague, chills. See Beat and Timbers.

Shivering Jemmy (or **James**). A beggar faked up with rags.

Shivery-shaky. Trembling, *shivery-shakes,* chills.

Sho. Pshaw!

Shoard. *To take a shoard,* to get tipsy: see Screwed.

Shoat (or **Shote**). An odd man: his principal business being to pick up chips, feed the hogs, etc.

Shock. A Brunt. To stand the shock, to bear the brunt (*B. E.*). *Shocking,* what is offensive, grating, grievous, and espec. indecent.

Shocker. Anything to surprise or startle: see Shilling Shocker.

Shocking. See Hat.

Shod. See Shoe.

Shoddy. 1. Old material—cloth, rags, etc.—ground up or shredded, and rewoven with a new warp. Hence, 2. anything of poor quality or pretentious reputation: spec. (in derision) a workman in a woollen factory. Also as adj., sham. Also derivatives such as *shoddyite, shoddyise,* etc.

Shoe. A room in Southgate Debtors' Prison. Phrases, colloquialisms, and proverbial sayings: *To win one's shoes* (old tournament), to vanquish one's adversary; *to die in one's shoes* (or *boots*), to be hanged: see Ladder; *to shoe the wild colt,* to be initiated, to exact footing (q.v.); also *to shoe*; *to shoe all round,* to provide hat-band, gloves, and scarf at a funeral; many shoeings being only partial; *to make children's shoes,* to look ridiculous; *to lick one's shoes,* to fawn on, to cringe; *in another's shoes,* in his place; *to put the shoe on the right foot,* to lay blame (or praise) where justly due; *to tread one's shoe straight,* to do what is right and proper; *to tread one's shoe awry,* (1) to play fast and loose; and spec. (2) to play the wanton; *to shoe the goose,* to undertake anything absurd or futile: cf. He that will meddle with all things may go shoe the goslins; and (3) to get tipsy; *to shoe the cobbler,* to tap the ice quickly with the forefoot when sliding: see Cobbler's-knock; *to wait for dead men's shoes* (see Dead men's shoes); *to throw an old shoe,* 'to wish them Luck on their business' (*B. E.*); *the shoe pinches* (of untoward circumstances or events); also No man knows where the shoe pinches but he who wears it (*B. E.*); *another pair of shoes,* something quite different: Fr., *une autre paire de manches*; *over shoes, over boots*, in for a sheep, in for a lamb; *One shoe will not fit all feet*, people nor circumstances are not all alike; He came in hosed and *shod*, he was born to a good estate.

Shoe-buckles. *Not worth shoe-buckles*, of little account (*Ray*).

Shoe-horn. To cuckold (1650).

Shoeing-horn. A pretext or incitement (1562).

Shoe-leather. A cry of warning; Look out! Fr., *Chou! chou!* or *Acresto!*

Shoemaker. Phrases, etc.: Who goes worse shod than the *shoemaker's wife*, an excuse for the lack of something one ought to possess; *in the shoemaker's stocks*, 'pincht with straight shoes' (*B. E.*); *shoemaker's pride*, creaking shoes; *shoemaker's holiday*, 'There was nothing which he [Oliver Goldsmith] enjoyed better than what he used facetiously to term a shoemaker's holiday — three or four of his intimate friends rendezvoused at his chambers to breakfast about ten o'clock in the morning; at eleven they proceeded, by the City Road and through the fields, to Highbury Barn to dinner; about six o'clock in the evening they adjourned to White Conduit House to drink tea; and concluded the evening by supping at the Grecian or Temple Exchange coffee houses, or at the Globe in Fleet Street; the whole expenses of this day's fete never exceeded a crown, and . . . oftener from three-and-sixpence to four shillings, for which the party obtained good air and exercise, good living, the example of simple manners, and good conversation' (1793).

Shoesmith. A cobbler.

Shoestring. A small bet run up to a large amount.

Shoful (Showfull, or Schofel). Generic for anybody or anything questionable. Spec. *shoful*, (1) base money (also *shoful money*): whence *shoful-pitcher*, a dealer in counterfeit; *shoful-pitching*, shoving the queer (q.v.); *shoful-jewellery*, pinchbeck gauds: also (2) a hansom cab (because an infringement on Hansom's patent); and *shovel* (q.v.) (1851).

Shog. A jog: also as verb, to be off (1599).

Sholl. To bonnet (q.v.), to crush the hat over the eyes.

Shoo! Be off! Away! As verb, to scare away. Cannot say *Shooh* to a goose, a retort on timidity or bashfulness: see Boh (1611).

Shook on. See Shake.

Shool. To loaf, to go on the tramp, to beg. Whence *shooling*, idling; *shoolman*, a loafer or vagabond: Fr., *battre sa flême* (1748).

Shoon. A fool, a lout.

Shoot. 1. A shooting party (1573). 2. A vacant piece of ground: where rubbish is got rid of. 3. A fancy. *The Shoot* (London), The Walworth-road station on the S. E. & C. Ry. [A large number of workpeople alight there.] Phrases: *Shoot* as a generic verb of action is found in frequent combination: as *to shoot* (*jerk*, or *whip*) *the cat*, (1) to vomit; see Cat, and (2) to sound a refrain in the infantry bugle call to defaulters' drill, which, it is fancied, follows the sound of the words, shoot the cat—shoot the cat; *to shoot the crow*, to run off without paying, to bilk (q.v.); *to shoot horses*, to take horses out of a van to prevent unloading (strikers'); *to shoot one's linen*, to jerk or display the cuffs; *to shoot one's lines*, to declaim with vigour; *to shoot* (*bolt*, or *shove*) *the moon*, to remove furniture by night to prevent seizure for rent: see Moon; *to shoot one's bolt*, to exhaust one's credit or resources, to come to an end of things; *to go the whole shoot*, to risk all; *to shoot off one's mouth* (or *jaw*), to abuse; *to be shot*, (1) to make a disadvantageous bet which is instantly accepted (turf), and (2) to be photographed (photographers'); see Snap-shot; *to shoot on the post*, to make a close win at the finish; *to shoot over the pitcher*, to brag of one's shooting; *to shoot one's star*, to die; *to shoot the sun*, to determine the longitude (nautical); *to shoot one's granny*, to find a mare's nest; to be disappointed; *to shoot the market* (Stock Exchange), to make a man a close price in a stock without knowing if there would be a profit or loss on the bargain; *shoot that* [*hat, man*—anything]! (1) a mild imprecation, Bother!; *Shoot that!* an injunction to silence: e.g. *shoot the shop*; *to shoot in the eye*, to do an ill turn; *to be shot in the neck*, to be drunk; *I'll* (or *may I*) *be shot if* —, a mild imprecation or strenuous denial. See also Shot.

Shootabout (school: esp. Charterhouse). An irregular form of football.

Shooter. Generic. Thus, (1) a revolver: also, according to capacity, a *five*, *six*, or *seven-shooter*; (2) the guard of a mail coach (old): he was armed with a blunderbuss; (3) a shooting star; (4) a shooting-stick (printers'); a piece of hard wood or metal used with a mallet for tightening quoins in a chase; (5) a ball (cricket). bowled full pitch but shooting in close to the ground; and (6) a black morning coat (Harrow) as distinguished from the tail coat worn by the Fifth and Sixth Forms.

Shooting-iron. A gun or revolver.

Shooting-stars. Dizziness: as caused by a blow.

Shop. (1) Generic for a place: of residence, business, manufacture, engagement, or resort; and (2) one's profession, business, or occupation; (3) (old, and thieves'), a prison: whence, as verb, to imprison, to confine; (4) a guardroom: also spec. The Royal Military Academy; and (5) a place: whence *to be shopped* (or *get a shop*), to come in first, second, or third; and (6) to kill, to burke (q.v.); *to talk shop*, to talk business in society: Fr., *parler boutique*; *to sink the shop*, to refrain from shop-talk; *shoppy* (or *full of the shop*), wholly engrossed in business matters; *the other shop*, a rival (trader, establishment, etc.). As verb, to work in a shop; whence *shopped*, (1) in work, also (2) discharged. Phrases: *To shut up shop*, (1) to come to an end, to retire; (2) to cease talking (1570); and (3) to finish, to do for; *to come* (or *go*) *to the wrong shop*, to make a mistake; *all over the shop*, confused, awry.

Shopkeeper. An article long in stock: sometimes *old shopkeeper*.

Shop-lift (lifter, or bouncer). 'One that steals under Pretence of Cheap'ning' (*B. E.*): cf. lift. Hence *shop-lifting* and similar compounds (1678).

Shopocracy. The world of shopkeepers: cf. Mobocracy, Shamocracy, etc.

Shoppy. (1) Commercial; (2) full of shops; and (3) see Shop.

Shop-shift. A tradesman's trick.

Shop-'un. A boxed or pickled egg: as distinguished from new-laid.

Shoreditch (The Duke of). A mock title: When Henry VIII. became king he gave a prize at Windsor to those who should excel in this exercise [archery], when Barlo, one of his guards, an inhabitant of Shoreditch, acquired such honour as an archer that the king created him Duke of Shoreditch on the spot. This . . . title continued so late as 1683.

Shoreditch-fury (obsolete). A prostitute (1599).

Shores. Lake Shore Ry. Shares.

Short. 1. A card (all below the eight) prepared so that nothing above the eight can be cut: by which the chances of an honour turning up are reduced to two to one: cf. Long and Brief. 2. In pl., knee breeches, small clothes. 3. A bear (q.v.); one who has sold short, and whose interest is to depress the market: as adj. or adv., (1) not in hand when contracting to deliver; or (2) unable to meet one's engagements: e.g. short of Eries, Brighton A's, etc. 4. In pl., flannel trousers, cuts (q.v.). As adj., (1) Unadulterated, neat (q.v.): as subs., a dram [spec. of gin] unlengthened by water; (2) a term used by cashiers of banks, in asking how a cheque is to be paid, How will you take it? i.e. in gold or notes? if in notes, Long or short? i.e. in notes for small or large amounts (*Hotten*); (3) hard up; short of cash (1603). Phrases and colloquialisms: *To come short home*, to be imprisoned; *to bite off short* (tailors'), to dismiss abruptly, or refuse curtly; *to cut it short*, to be as brief as may be; *short and sweet*, a jesting regret, or sarcastic comment: frequently with the addition, *like a donkey's gallop*; *the short and long* (or *the short and plain*), (1) the whole truth: now usually *the long and the short*: also (2) a couple of persons, one of dwarf and one of giant stature walking together; *short of puff*, winded; *short* (or *short-waisted*), crusty, irritable; *short of a sheet*, crazy; *for short*, for brevity's sake; *A short horse is soon curried*, a simple matter is soon disposed of; *short commons*, not too much to eat; *short-limbered*, touchy; *a short shrift and a long rope*, instant dispatch; *a short memory*, forgetfulness.

Short-ear (American University). A rowdy: see Lamb.

Shorter. One who dwindles the surface and the edges of coins by clipping, filing, shaking together in a bag, precipitation, or other means; a sweater (q.v.).

Short-head. A horse that fails by a short head.

Shortheels. A wanton. Hence, *short-heeled*, unchaste.

Short-length. A small glass of brandy, a 'wee three.'

Short-one. A passenger whose name was not on the way-bill, shoulderstick (q.v.), a bit of fish (q.v.).

Short-pot. 'False, cheating Potts used at Ale-houses, and Brandy-shops' (*B. E.*).

Short-staff. See Gentleman.

Short-stick. An insufficient length.

Shot. 1. A reckoning, a share of expense. 2. Money (generic): as *shot in the locker*, money in hand, or at will; also *shot-bag*, a purse; *shot-free*, nothing to pay: also *scot-free*; *shot-clog*, a simpleton, tolerated because he is willing to pay reckonings; *shot-flagon*, the host's pot, given where the guests have drunk above a shilling's-worth of ale (*Halliwell*); whence *shot-pot*, one entitled to the *shot-flagon*; *shot-ship*, a company sharing and sharing alike; *shot-shark*, a waiter (1591). 3. A corpse. 4. A guess. 5. An attempt, a venture (1844). As adv., drunk: see Screwed: also *shot in the neck*: see Shoot. As verb, to fake a horse: a dose of small shot gives a temporary appearance of sound-windedness. As intj., (Royal High School, Edin.), a cry of warning at the approach of a master. Phrases: *Like a shot*, quickly, at full drive; *shot in the neck*, drunk; see Screwed; *shot in the tail* (or *giblets*), got with child; *not by a long shot*, hopelessly out of reckoning: whence *a long shot*, a bold attempt or large undertaking: also see Shoot.

Shot-clog. See Shot.

Shot-soup. Bad pea-soup.

Shotten-herring. A term of contempt: spec. a lean meagre fellow. Hence, *shotten-souled*, despicable (1598).

Shoulder. Shouldering, among coachmen and guards, is that species of cheating their employers in which they take the fares and pocket them, generally of such passengers as they overtake on the road, or who come across the country to the main road and are not put down in the way-bill: hence *shoulder-stick*, a passenger not on the way-bill: see Short-one and cf. Swallow (1828). *A slip of the shoulder*, seduction. See Cold shoulder, Wheel.

Shoulder-clapper. A bailiff; *shoulder-clapped*, arrested (1593).

Shoulder-feast. A dinner given to bearers after a funeral (1785).

Shoulder-hitter. A bully, rowdy: spec. a gambling tout (1858)

Shoulder-knot. A footman.

Shoulder-of-mutton fist. A coarse big, broad hand: in contempt.

Shoulder-pegged. Stiff-limbed.

Shoulder-sham. A Partner to a File. (*B. E.*)

Shout. A turn in paying for a round of drinks. Hence as verb, to stand treat; *shouting*, a general invitation to drink; *to shout oneself hoarse*, to get drunk: see Charter the Bar.

Shouting. *All over but the shouting*, said of anything obviously finished.

Shove. Phrases: *To shove for* (or *to be on the shove*), to move, to try for; *to shove the moon*, to remove secretly, by night: see Moon; *to shove the tumbler*, to be whipped at the cart's tail (*B. E.*); *a shove in the mouth*, a dram; *to shove the queer*, to pass bad money; *a shove in the eye*, a punch in the eye: generic; *to give the shove*, to send packing; *to get the shove*, to be dismissed: see Bag.

Shove-halfpenny (also **Shove-** [or **Shovel-**] **board, Shove-groat, Slide-groat, Slide-thrift,** or **Push-penny.**) A gambling game, played on a table on which transverse lines have been drawn rather more than the width of a halfpenny apart. The play consists in sending the halfpenny by a smart stroke of the palm from the end of the table so as to make it rest in the compartments formed by the lines. [Ed. VI. shillings, as being smooth and easily pushed, were much in vogue as counters.] (1528).

Shovel. 1. A hat, broad-brimmed, turned up at the sides, and scooped in front, as worn by deans and bishops of the Established Church: also *shovel-hat*: whence *shovel-hatted*. 2. A hansom-cab: see Shoful. 3. An ignorant marine engineer. Phrases: *Put to bed with a shovel* (or *spade*, buried; He was fed with a *shovel* (or *fire-shovel*), a jeer at a large mouth). That's before you bought your *shovel*, You are too previous, That's up against you, That settles your hash.

Shover. One who utters base money; a smasher (q.v.); a sour-planter (q.v.): also *shover of the queer*.

Shove-up. Nothing (*Vaux*).

Show. (1) An entertainment; a spectacle (as the Lord Mayor's show); (2) one's business: cf. shop; and (3) a piece of work: also *show-box*, a theatre (1530). (4) A chance, a turn, an opportunity (1537). Phrases and colloquialisms: *To show away* (or *off*), to give oneself airs: hence *showing off*, making the most of oneself; *to show a leg* (nautical), (1) to turn out; and (2) see Leg; *to show up*, (1) to make an appearance (also *to show oneself*), and (2) to expose: also as subs. in both senses; *to show the door* (or *the outside of the door*), to dismiss without ceremony; *to boss the show*, to manage; *to show one London* (school), to hold one by the heels upside down; *to see London*, to hang by the heels: as from a rail, trapeze; *to give the show away*, to blab; etc. Also see Agility, Cold Shoulder, Elephant, Heels, Leg, Teeth, Water, White Feather.

Shower. A shower-bath.

Showing. *A front showing*, parade at short notice: i.e. without time to properly prepare accoutrements and kit.

Showman. A manager.

Show-Sunday. Among the commonalty, Easter Sunday, when if you don't wear something new, the rooks will bewray you; at Oxford, the Sunday in Commemoration Week (a kind of University Parade took place in the Broad Walk of Christ's, but the invasion of Town has stopped it); amongst artists, etc., the Sunday before sending-in day, when the studios are open to visitors and friends.

Shreds (or Shreds and Patches). A tailor.

Shrieking (or Whining) Sisterhood. The world of women reformers: hence, busybodies.

Shrimp. 1. A dwarf, a pigmy: in contempt (1383). 2. A prostitute.

Shuck. The lowest standard of value; spec. the paper currency of the Confederate States: at the close of the Civil War these notes became as valueless as pea-shucks; hence, *less than shuck*, less than nothing; *to care* (or *be worth*) *not a shuck*, to care (or be worth) little; *shuckless*, worthless; *Shucks!* Nonsense: a contemptuous denial or refusal. As verb, to undress, peel (q.v.).

Shuffle. 1. To make use of false pretences or unfair shifts. *Shuffling-fellow*, 'A slippery, shiteing Fellow' (*B. E.*). 2. (Winchester), to pretend, to feign: as *to shuffle sleep*: hence *shuffler*.

Shum. In pl., money: see Rhino.

Shunter. One who buys or sells stocks on the chance of undoing his business, on one of the provincial Stock Exchanges, at a profit.

Shurk. A sharper.

Shut. 1. *To shut up*, to hold one's tongue, to compel silence, to dry up (q.v.): also *shut your neck* (*mouth*, *head*, or *face*; *Shut up!* or *Shut it!*): Fr., *ferme ta boite*: hence, *to be shut up*, to be silenced, exhausted, or done for (1563). 2. To give up, as one horse when challenged by another in a race. *To be shut of*, to be rid of, freed from, quit of: as subs. a riddance (1596).

Shuts (Christ's Hospital). A hoax a sell (q.v.): as intj., Sold again!

Shutters. *To put up the shutters.* 1. To bung up an opponent's eyes. 2. To announce oneself a bankrupt, to stop payment.

Shutter-racket. The practice of robbing houses or shops by boring a hole in the window shutters and taking out a pane of glass (1785).

Shuttle-bag. *To swallow the shuttle-bag*, to get husky.

Shuttle-head (brain, or wit). An eccentric, a scatterling. Whence *shuttle-headed*, etc., flighty, scatter-brained; *shuttleness*, rashness, thoughtlessness. Also *shittle-head*, etc. (1440).

Shy. Generic for a piece of action: as a throw, a chance, an attempt, a jibe; as verb, to do, to make, to throw, and all other verbs of action (1824). As adj., adv. and verb, (1) missing, hard to find: whence *shy-cock*, one who keeps within doors for fear of bailiffs (*Grose*): hence (2), coy, squeamish, cold, or averse (*B. E.*); (3) of dubious repute or character; as verb, *to fight shy of*, to keep out of the way, to abstain (1796).

Shyster. 1. One of a class of men who hang about the police courts of New York and other large cities, and practise in them as lawyers, but who in many cases have never been admitted to the bar; they are men who have served as policemen, turnkeys, sheriff's officers, or in any capacity by which they have become familiar with criminals and criminal courts. 2. A swindler, duffer, or vagabond: a generic term (1903) of contempt.

Sice. Sixpence: see Rhino.

Sick. In its primary, extended, and old literary sense (as in the Bible and Shakespeare), *sick* (disabled by disease or bad health) now borders on the colloquial, having been superseded by ill, whilst *sick* is confined to vomiting or nausea. There are also exceptional usages. Thus sick (muddy) *wine*; *sick* (stale) *fish*; *a sick hand* (at cards, esp. whist, without trumps); *a sick* (pale) *look*; *a sick* (ruffled) *temper*, etc.: also, *It makes me sick* (or *gives me the sick*), I am disgusted with it; *sick as a horse* (*dog*, *rat*, *cat*, *cushion*, or what not), sick as may be; *sick of the idles* (*the Lombard fever*, or *the idle crick and the belly work in the heel*), a pretence to be idle upon no apparent cause; *to speak in the sick tune*, to affect sickness; *sickly*, untoward or disgusting; *sickrel* (*B. E.*), a puny, sickly Creature. Also (American), lacking, in need of: as paint-*sick*, nail-*sick*: cf. *home-sick*, *mother-sick*, *sleep-sick*, etc. Likewise, *sitting up with a sick friend*, an excuse for marital absence all night (1600).

Sickener. Too much (even of a good thing), a cause of disgust: cf. Bellyful.

Side. Swagger (q.v.), conceit; thus, *to put on side*, to give oneself airs: Fr., *se hancher*. As intj., Yes! See Blanket, Best side, Blind side, Jack, Mouth, Pull, Right side, Seamy, Set, Shady, Shinny, Split, Wrong side.

Sideboard. A shirt-collar of the stand-up order. In pl., whiskers, side-wings, gills (q.v.).

Side-pocket. An out-of-the-way drinking saloon. *Wanted as much as a dog* (or *a toad*) *wants a side-pocket*, a simile used for one who desires anything by no means necessary: see also Wife.

Side-sim. A fool (1610).

Side-slip. Bastard, a bye-blow (q.v.).

Side-splitter. A funny story. Hence, *side-splitting*, screamingly, funny.

Sidetrack. To shunt (q.v.), to avoid, to place on one side, to discontinue.

Side-winder. A heavy blow with the fist: also *sidewipe* (1850).

Sidledywry. Crooked (1785).

Sidney-bird. See Sidney-sider.

Siege. 1. Excrement, fæcal matter. 2. A jakes. 3. Defecation: as verb, to stool (1548).

Sieve. A loose-spoken person, a blab (q.v.): cf. As well pour water into a *sieve* as tell him (1670).

Sift. To embezzle small coins: such as might pass through a sieve.

Sifter. A drink composed of whisky, honey, strawberry-syrup, lemon, and ice.

Sight. 1. Generic for magnitude (that is, something worth looking at): thus a *sight* of people, a multitude; a *sight* of work, untiring industry, or enough and to spare; *a sight* of money, a large amount; hence, *out of sight*, unrivalled, beyond comparison; *a smart* (*pretty*, *precious*, *powerful*, etc.) *sight*, a great deal; *a sight for sore eyes*, something to please: also in sarcasm. 2. An opportunity, a chance, a show (q.v.); *to get within sight*, to near the end. 3. An oddity, a scarecrow: also contemptuously, Her new jacket was a perfect *sight*, or You've made yourself a regular *sight*, Not fit to be seen (1694). 4. As far as can be seen at one time, as the reach of a river, or a bend in a road: thus, in directing a person, Go three *sights* on, and take, etc.: also *a look*. 5. A gesture of derision: the thumb on the nose-tip and the fingers spread fan-wise: also Queen Anne's Fan; a *double sight* is made by joining the tip of the little finger (already in position) to the thumb of the other hand, the fingers being similarly extended; emphasis is given by moving the fingers of both hands as if playing a piano: similar actions are taking a grinder (q.v.) or working the coffee-mill (q.v.); pulling bacon (q.v.); making a nose (or long nose); Cocking snooks, etc. (1702). *To put out of sight,* to eat, to consume.

Sign. Here may be arranged two or three obsolete colloquialisms: *sign of a house to let,* a widow's weeds (1785); *the sign of the feathers,* a woman's best good graces; *at the sign of the horn,* in cuckoldom; *the sign of the prancer* (1567), the Nag's Head; *the sign of the three balls,* a pawnbroker's; *sign of the five* (*ten,* or *fifteen*) *shillings,* The Crown, The Two Crowns, or The Three Crowns (1785); *to live at the sign of the cat's foot,* to be henpecked.

Signboard. The face: see Dial.

Sign-manual. The mark of a blow (1822).

Sikes. See Bill Sikes.

Sil. See Silver-beggar.

Silence. To knock down, to stun, to kill (1785): whence *silencer,* a knock-down or stunning blow. *Silence in the court, the cat,* etc., a gird upon any one requiring silence unnecessarily (*Grose*).

Silent-flute. See Flute.

Silk. 1. A King's Counsel; also *silk-gown*; the canonical K.C.'s robe is of silk; that of a Junior Counsel of stuff; hence *to take silk,* to attain the rank of King's (or Queen's) Counsel. 2. A bishop: the apron is of silk (1838). *To carry* (or *sport*) *silk,* to run (or ride) in a race.

Silk-petticoat. See Silk-stocking.

Silk post. Assumption of a gentleman commoner's gown. *Oxf. Univ. Cant* (*Grose*).

Silk-purse. See Sow's ear.

Silk-snatcher. Thieves who snatch hoods or bonnets from persons walking in the streets (*Grose*).

Silk-stocking. A rich man or woman. [Silken hose were regarded as extravagant and luxurious.] Hence, *the silk-stocking gentry* (or *element*), the wealthy classes; and *silken,* luxurious; *Your silkiness!* Mr. Luxury. Also *silk-petticoat,* a woman of fashion (1596).

Silkworm. A cant among the hackney fraternity for their best customers, women who ramble twice or thrice a week from shop to shop, to turn over all the goods in town without buying anything. The silkworms are, it seems, indulged by the tradesmen; for though they never buy, they are ever talking of new silks, laces, and ribbons, and serve the owners, in getting them customers (*Steele,* 1714).

Silly. A simpleton: also *silly-billy* (or *willy*), spec. a kind of clown, or rather a clown's butt; but not after the style of Pantaloon, for the part is comparatively juvenile; *Silly Billy* is supposed to be a schoolboy, although not dressed in a charity-boy's attire. He is very popular with the audience at the fairs; indeed, they cannot do without him (1620). Also *sillyton* and *silliken.* Hence *to knock one silly,* to hit out of time, or to affect *au possible*: e.g. *She knocked him silly,* She sent him off his chump (wits, onion) about her.

Silly-season. The parliamentary recess: in the absence of debates, with a real or assumed dearth of news, the newspapers are driven to print all kinds of political and social twaddles: cf. Gigantic gooseberry, Shower of frogs.

Silver. In pl., India Rubber, Gutta Percha, and Telegraph Co. shares: the works are at Silvertown. See Penny.

Silver-beggar (or **lurker**). A tramp with briefs (q.v.) or fakements (q.v.) concerning bogus losses by fire, shipwreck, accident, and the like; guaranteed by forged signatures or shams (q.v.) of clergymen, magistrates, etc., the false subscription-books being known as delicates (q.v.). Also *sil,* (1) a forged document, and (2) a note on The Bank of Elegance, or The Bank of Engraving (1859).

Silver-cooper. A kidnapper.

Silver-fork (Winchester: obsolete). A wooden skewer: used as a chopstick when forks were scarce (*Mansfield,* c. 1840). *The Silver Fork School,* a school of novelists which laid especial stress on the etiquette of the drawing room: as Theodore Hook, Lady Blessington, Mrs. Trollope, and Lord Lytton: it is only within the last forty years that the old two-pronged steel fork has been ousted by cheap four-prongs in imitation of silver ware.

Silver-grays. At a convention of New York State certain measures being unacceptable, many withdrew whose locks were silvered by age, drawing forth the remark, There go *the silver grays!* The term remains and is the only one now (1859) used to distinguish one branch of the Whig party (*Bartlett*).

Silver-hell. A low-class gambling den: where silver is the usual stake (1820).

Silver-hook. *To catch fish with a silver hook*, to purchase a catch in order to conceal unskilful angling: It., *pescar col hamo d'argenta* (1670).

Silver-laced. Lousy: e.g. The cove's kicksies are *silver-laced*, The fellow's breeches are covered with lice (1785).

Silver-spoon. *Born with a silver spoon in one's mouth*, born rich: It., *aver la pera monda* (to have his pear ready pared) (1670).

Silver State (The). Nevada.

Sim (Cambridge University). A Simeonite, or member of the Evangelical section of the Church of England; a Low Churchman. The modern equivalent is Pi-man. [The Rev. Charles Simeon (1759-1836) was 54 years Vicar of Holy Trinity, Cambridge].

Simkin. See Simpkin and Simple.

'Simmon. See Persimmon.

Simon. 1. Sixpence: see Rhino. 2. A trained horse. 3. (King Edward's School, Birmingham). A cane: obsolete. [See Acts ix. 43.]

Simon Pure. The genuine article: also as adj. (1717).

Simpkin (or **Simkin**). 1. Champagne: a native pronunciation. 2. The fool in comic ballets. See Simple.

Simple. In pl., folly; hence, as in proverb, To go to Battersea to be cut for the *simples*, to take means to cure of foolishness (Battersea was famous for its herb gardens). Also *Simpleton* (*Simkin* or *Simple Simon*), a credulous person: Simple Simon Suck-egg Sold his wife for an addled duck-egg (1670).

Simple Arithmetic. See Arithmetic.

Simpson (or **Simson**). 1. Water: spec. when used for diluting milk; hence, *Mrs. Simpson* (or *Simpson's cow*), the pump, the cow with the iron tail. 2. Poor milk: see Sky-blue and Chalkers (1860).

Sin. The Devil: as the incarnation of evil.

Sinbad. An old sailor.

Sines (Winchester). Bread; a *sines*, a small loaf.

Sinews of War. Money: generic: see Rhino (1626).

Sing. To cry: usually as a threat to a crying child, I'll give you something to sing for. Phrases: *To sing out*, (1) to raise the voice; (2) to cry, or call out, from excess of emotion; and (3) to inform, peach (q.v.); *to sing small*, to lessen one's pretensions, to eat humble pie (1785); *to sing* (or *pipe*) *another song* (or *tune*), to modify one's conduct, manner, etc.; *to sing the same song*, to repeat the weakness; *to sing it*, to exaggerate, to swagger, to chant the poker; *to sing out beef* (thieves'), to call out stop thief! Also proverb, He could have sung well before he broke his left shoulder with whistling. See Black Psalm, Placebo, Te Deum.

Singed-cat. An epithet applied to a person whose appearance does him injustice.

Single-broth (or **tiff**). Small beer: see Screwed (1635).

Single-peeper. A one-eyed person (1785).

Single-pennif. A five-pound note: see Finnup.

Single-soldier. A private.

Singleton. 1. A very silly, foolish fellow (*B. E.*). 2. A corkscrew: from the name of a Dublin cutler famous for his tempering (*Grose*). 3. A single card of any suit in a hand: whist: also a hand containing such a card.

Sing-song. 1. (old), a poem; 2. (common), a convivial meeting at a public house at which each person is expected to contribute a song, a free-and-easy (q.v.); 3. (nautical), a Chinese theatre; and 4. (colloquial), crooning. As adj., musical (1656).

Sink. 1. A slum, a rookery: also *sink-hole*. 2. A centre of anything disreputable (1565). 3. A confirmed tippler. 4. The throat: see Sewer; hence *to fall down the sink*, to take a drink. 5. (The Leys School). A heavy feed; a stodge (q.v.). 6. A glutton. Phrases: *To sink the nobleman* (*lover*, etc.), to suppress, to keep in the background: cf. Shop; *sink me!* a mild imprecation (1772).

Sinker. 1. In pl., base money (*Snowden*, 1857). 2. A dollar.

Sinner. 1. A publican: cf. Luke xviii. 2. A harlot. *Old sinner*, a jesting reproach.

Sipper. Gravy.

Si quis. 1. A public notice of ordination. [These commenced *Si quis*, If any]. 2. A candidate for holy orders. 3. Any public announcement. As verb, to make hue and cry (1599).

Sir (Sir John or Mass-John). A parson; spec. a country parson or vicar (*B. E.*): see Sky-pilot (1380).

Sir Garnet. All right, as it should be. [An echo of the days when Sir Garnet (now Viscount) Wolseley was in the forefront of military matters.]

Sir Harry. A jakes: see Mrs. Jones. *To visit* (or *go to*) *Sir Harry*, to evacuate the bowels.

Sir Hugh's bones. See Bones.

Sir Jack's Sauce. See Jack Sauce and Sauce.

Sir John Barleycorn. See Barleycorn.

Sir John Lack-Latin. See Lack-Latin.

Sir Oliver. See Oliver.

Sir Petronel Flash. See Petronel.

Sirrah! An angry, contemptuous, or jesting address: also (modern) *sirree!* (or *sirree, bob!*) (1526).

Sirretch. A cherry.

Sir- (or save-) reverence. 1. An apology: the commonest of expressions, for nearly six centuries, on mentioning anything likely to offend, or for which an excuse was thought necessary. Whence, 2. excrement; and as verb, (1) to evacuate, and (2) to excuse oneself. [Lat., *salvâ reverentiâ*, whence *sa'reverence*, *sur-reverence*, and *sir-reverence*] (1356).

Sir Sauce. See Jack Sauce and Sauce.

Sir Sydney. A clasp knife.

Sir Thomas Gresham. *To sup with Sir Thomas Gresham*, to go hungry: see Duke Humphrey (1628). See Perthshire Greybreeks.

Sir Timothy. One that treats everybody, and pays the reckonings everywhere (*B. E.*).

Sir Tristam's Knot. The hangman's noose: see Ladder and Horsecollar.

Sir Walter Scott. A pot of beer.

Siserara (Sarsara, Siserara, Sasarara, etc.). 1. A writ of removal from a lower to a higher Court. 2. A blow, a scolding, an outburst; *with a sarsara*, with a vengeance, suddenly (1607).

Sister. A disguised prostitute. See Brother Smut.

Sisterhood. Harlotry in general.

Sit. Situation: e.g. *out of a sit*, out of a job. Phrases: *To sit on one's knees*, to kneel; *to sit under*, to attend the ministry of some particular divine; *to sit a woman*, to keep the night-courtship (q.v.): cf. Bundle; *to sit on* (or *upon*), (1) to take to task, to snub—in anger, contempt, or jest; also *sat-upon*, adj., reprimanded, snubbed; and (2) to allow milk to burn in the pan; *to sit eggs*, to outstay one's welcome; *to sit in*, to adhere firmly; *to sit up*, to pull oneself together; *to make one sit up*, to astonish, disconcert, or get an advantage. See also Bodkin, Skirts.

Sith-nom. A month.

Sit-on-a-rock. Rye whisky.

Sit-still-nest. A cow-shard, quaker (q.v.), pancake (q.v.).

Sitter. A sitting room; cf. Brekker, Footer, Saccer, etc.

Sitting-breeches. *To wear one's sitting breeches*, To stay long in company (*Grose*): also *to sit longer than a hen*: cf. To sit eggs.

Situation. A place.

Sit-upons. Trousers: see Kicks.

Sivvy. Word of honour, asseveration: e.g. *'pon my sivvy*, It's true, Honour bright! cf. Davy.

Six. 1. Beer sold at 6s. a barrel; small beer: cf. Four-half and (modern) Six ale (1631). 2. (Oxford Univ.). A privy. *At sixes and sevens*, in confusion, at loggerheads: also *to set on seven*, to confuse, to disarray (1340). *Six of one and half a dozen of the other*, much alike, not a pin to choose between them, never a barrel the better herring.

Six-and-eightpence. 1. A solicitor: see Green-bag (1756). 2. The usual fee given, to carry back the body of the executed malefactor, to give it Christian burial (*B. E.*).

Six-and-tips. Whisky and small beer (1785).

Sixer. 1. Six months' hard labour 2. (prison). A six-ounce loaf.

Six-footer. A person six-feet (or more) in height.

Sixpence. See Spit.

Sixpenny (Eton). A playing field. As adj., cheap, mean, worthless: generic: hence *sixpenny strikers*, petty footpads (1598).

Six-shooter. A six chambered revolver. *Six-shooter horse*, a swift horse.

Sixty. Generic for magnitude; *like sixty*, brisk, rapid.

Sixty-per-cent. A usurer: also *cent-per-cent* (1616).

Six-upon-four. The rations of four men served out amongst six.

Six-water grog. Six of water to one of spirit.

Size (and **Sizar**) (Cambridge Univ. and Trin. Coll., Dublin). 1. ' A portion of bread or drinke, i. is a farthing. which Schollers in Cambridge haue at the butterie; it is noted with the letter S., as in Oxeford with the letter Q. for halfe a farthing and q/u. for a farthing; and whereas they say in Oxford to Battle in the butterie booke, i. to set downe on their names what they take in Bread, Drinke, Butter, Cheese, etc. so in Cambridge they say to size, i. to set downe their quantum, i. how much they take on their names in the Butterie booke' (*Minsheu*, 1617); To sup at one's own expense: if a man asks you to sup, he treats you: if to size, you pay for what you eat, liquor only being provided by the inviter: *sizing-party*, a number of students who contribute each his part towards a supper (*Grose*); the sizers paid nothing for food and tuition, and very little for lodging; but they had to perform some menial services from which they have long been relieved. They swept the court; they carved up the dinner to the fellows' table, and changed the plates, and poured out the ale of the rulers of the society (*Macaulay*). The grade no longer exists: practically speaking, it has ceased to exist for a century (1592). 2. Half-a-pint (1785). 3. Result, state, fact. As verb, to measure, to gauge, to reckon up: also *to size up* (1380).

Skary. See Skeer.

Skedaddle. Hasty flight: also *skedaddling*. As verb, to scamper off, to scatter, to spill.

Skeer. To scare. Hence *skeery* (*skary, scary*), (1) dreadful; (2) frightened, nervous (1582).

Skeesicks. 1. A good-for-nothing; also like dog, rogue, rascal, in playful address. 2. A fidgety, fussy, little fellow.

Skeet. A variant of scoot (q.v.), to run, decamp. As adj. and adv., swift, fleet (1360).

Skeeter. A mosquito.

Skelder. A rogue, a sponge (q.v.): as verb, to cheat, to play the sponge: cf. Skellum. Hence *skeldering*, swindling, sponging.

Skeleton. *A skeleton in the cupboard* (*locker, closet, house*), a secret source of trouble, fear, or annoyance Fr., *un cadavre.*

Skellum (or **Scellum**). A rascal, a vagabond: cf. Skelder (1611).

Skelper. Anything big or striking: see Spanker and Whopper.

Skelter. See Helter-skelter.

Skensmadam. A show dish, sometimes real, sometimes sham.

Skerfer. A blow on the neck.

Sket. A skeleton-key.

Skevington's daughter (or **irons**). See Scavenger's-daughter.

Skew. 1. A beggar's wooden dish or cup (*B. E.*). 2. (Harrow). An entrance examination at the end of term: that at the commencement is the dab, after which there is no further chance; a shaky candidate tries the dab first: as verb, to turn back, to fail.

Skewer. 1. A sword. As verb, (*a*) to run through; and (*b*) to impose on. 2. A pen: Fr., *griffarde* (or *griffonante*).

Skew-fisted. Awkward, ungainly (*B. E.*).

Skew-gee. A squint: as adj., crooked, skew'd, squinting.

Skewgy-mewgy. A certain caustic composition, known to yachtsmen by the mysterious name of skewgy-mewgy, damp and active under the scrubbing-brushes and holystones of her crew.

Skewing. In pl., perquisites, makings (q.v.). [Properly skew (gilders'), to remove superfluous gold leaf, and to make good defects.] Analogous terms are cabbage (tailors'); blue-pigeon (plumbers'); menavelings (beggars'); fluff (railway clerks'); pudding, or jam (common).

Skew-the-dew. A splay-footed person, a bumble-foot (q.v.).

Skewvow. Crooked, inclining to one side (*Grose*): also *all askew*.

Skid (or **Skiv**). 1. A sovereign: see Rhino. 2. A volunteer, a militiaman. *To put on the skid*, to speak or act with caution.

Skiff. A leg [?].

Skiffle. A great hurry: cf. Scuffle.

Skill. A goal kicked between posts.

Skillet. A ship's cook.

Skillingers (The). The 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons: also The Old Inniskillings.

Skilly (or **Skilligolee**). 1. A thin broth or soup of oatmeal and water. 2. Anything of little or no value. *Skilly and toke*, prison fare.

Skilt. In pl., trousers: see Kicks.

Skim. Money: generic: see Rhino.

Skimble - skamble. Rigmarole, nonsense; as adj., wandering, confused, incoherently (1598).

Skimmery (Oxford Univ.). St. Mary's Hall.

Skimmington. 1. A ludicrous cavalcade, in ridicule of a man beaten by his wife. A man behind a woman, face to horse's tail, distaff in hand, which he seems to work, the woman beating him with a ladle; a smock on a staff is carried before them denoting female superiority. They are accompanied by rough music, frying pans, bulls' horns, marrowbones and cleavers, etc. (*Grose*). Also *to ride the skimmington* (or [Scots'] *the stang*). [For a long description see Butler, *Hudibras*, II. ii. 585.] Hence, 2. a row, a quarrel (1562).

Skimp. To stint, to scamp (q.v.). As adj., insufficient, meagre; *skimping* (or *skimpy*), scanty, carelessly made, slightly treated.

Skimshander. See Scrimshaw.

Skin. 1. A purse, a pocket-book—any receptacle for money: thus *a queer skin*, an empty purse; *frisk the skin*, clean him out. 2. A sovereign, 20s.: see Rhino. 3. In pl., a tanner (1785). 4. See Skinner. 5. A translation, a crib (q.v.), a Bohn (q.v.); also as verb, to copy a solution; and *skinner*, one using an irregular aid to study. 6. Punch made in the glass: as a *whisky-skin*, a *rum-skin*, etc. 7. See Skinflint. As verb, (1) to rob, to strip, to clean out (q.v.): spec. (racing) to win all one's bets; (bookmakers') *skin the lamb* (or *have a skinner*, (*a*) to win with an unbacked horse; (*b*) to swindle; and (*c*) to take toll (q.v.): hence *skin-game* (e.g. *skin-faro*), a swindle: *skin-house*, a gambling den; *skinner*, (*a*) a sharping cheat, a thief: spec. (American) a looter infesting both camps; (*b*) a pirate; and (*c*) a race, which being won by a rank outsider, *skins* the ring (1821); (2) to shadow (q.v.): spec. when previous to arrest; (3) to strip, to peel (q.v.): whence *skinner*, a woman who strips children of their clothes; (4) to plant a deck (q.v.): see Concave, Broads, and Reflector; (5) to abate a price, to lower a value: cf. Shaving the ladies; (6) to thrash: also *to skin alive*. Other colloquialisms and phrases: *By the skin of one's teeth*, a narrow escape, the closest of close shaves; *to skin out*, to decamp; *to skin the cat* (gymnasts'), to grasp the bar with both hands, raise the feet, and so draw the body, between the arms, over the bar; *like eels, used to skinning*, of good heart; *to skin the eyes* (see Keep); *all skin and whipcord*, well-trussed; in good condition; *in* (or *with*) *a whole skin*, uninjured, with impunity; *to save one's skin*, to escape unhurt: see Bacon; *to skin a flint* (see Skin-flint); honest as the *skin between his brows* (or *horns*): see Brow; *to skin a razor*, to drive a hard-and-fast bargain; *to skin one's skunk*, to do one's own dirty work; *in a bad skin*, angry; *clean-skin* (Australian), an unbranded beast: cf. Maverick; *to leap* (or *jump*) *out of one's skin*, to be startled or pleased; *in her* (or *his*) *skin*, evasive as to a person's whereabouts.

Skin - coat. *To curry one's skin-coat*, to thrash.

Skin-disease. Fourpenny ale.

Skinflint (or **Skin**). A griping, sharping, close-fisted fellow (*B. E.*). As verb (or *to skin*, or *flay, a flint, fly, stone*, etc.), to pinch, to screw, to starve: cf. (proverbial) to skin a flea, and bleed a cabbage; *skinny*, mean, stingy; *the skinflinteries*, The Museum of Economic [now Practical] Geology, Jermyn St., W. See File, Flay, Flea, and Flint (1761).

Skinful. A bellyful — liquor or food (1600).

Skink. Primarily to draw, serve, or offer drink. Whence as subs., drink or lap (q.v.); and *skinker*, (1) a tapster, or waiter; (2) a landlord, and (3) one who waits on the company, rings the bell, stirs the fire, and snuffs the candles; the duty of the youngest officer in the military mess (*Grose*); in a family the person latest at breakfast, on whom some domestic duty is imposed or threatened for the day, such as ringing the bell, putting coal on the fire, or in other cases, drawing the beer for the family (*Halliwell*) (1200).

Skin-merchant. A recruiting officer (1783).

Skinned-rabbit. A very spare person.

Skinner. 1. See Skin. 2. A bird fat enough to burst its skin when shot.

Skin-of-the-creature (or **crater**). A bottle: see Creature.

Skin-the-lamb. Lansquenet: see also Skin.

Skintight. A sausage.

Skintling. At right angles.

Skip. 1. A footman, a grasshopper (q.v.): whence spec. 2. (Trin. Coll., Dublin), a college servant: cf. Gyp and Scout: also *skipkennel* (1672). As verb, (1) to decamp: also *to skip out* (or *off*), and *to do a skip*; (2) to die: see Hop the twig; (3) to read hastily, picking out passages here and there; (4. University), to shirk work: also *skipper*, a hasty reader; and *skippable*, easily and quickly read.

Skip-brain. Flighty, volatile, fickle (1603).

Skipjack. 1. A horse-dealer's jockey (1568). 2. A nobody, a trifler: also *skipper* (1580).

Skipper. 1. A barn: whence as verb (or *to skipper it*), to sleep in the straw or in Hedge Square (q.v.); *skipper-bird*, a barn-rooster or hedge-tramp (1567). 2. The Devil. 3. 'A Dutch Master of a Ship or Vessell' (*B. E.*); in modern use any ship's captain. 4. A leader or chief in any enterprise, adventure, or business. 5. A master, boss (q.v.), governor (q.v.) (1483). 6. The cheese-hopper: hence *skippery*, full of mites. See Skip and Skipjack.

Skipper's-daughter. A crested wave, a white-cap (or horse).

Skipping. Light, giddy, volatile (1594).

Skirry. A run: also as verb, to scurry (*Parker*, 1781).

Skirt. In pl., women (generic): cf. Petticoat, Muslin, etc. *To sit upon one's skirts*, to pursue (1525).

Skirter. 1. A hound running wide of the pack. 2. A hunter who does not ride straight to hounds, but makes short cuts: cf. Shirker.

Skirt-foist. A general amorist.

Skit. 1. A jest, a satire: also as verb, to wheedle (*Grose*) (1779). 2. A wanton (1583).

Skitter-brain (or **wit**). A flighty person: also *Skitterbrained*, etc.

Skitting-dealer. A sham dumby.

Skittles. Nonsense! Other colloquialisms are—*All beer and skittles*, everything easy or to one's liking; *all up, as skittles when down*, a difficulty, something to tackle or do again.

Skiv (or **Sciv**). A sovereign, 20s.: see Rhino.

Skowbanker. A loafer, a hanger-on: also *showbanker*.

Skower. See Scoure.

Skrimp (or **Skrump**). To steal apples.

Skrimshanker. See Scrimshanker.

Skrunt. A prostitute.

Skue. The rump.

Skug. See Scug.

Skulker. A soldier who . . . . evades his duty; a sailor who keeps below in time of danger; one who keeps out of the way when work is to be done; *to skulk*, to hide oneself; *to* avoid labour or duty (*Grose*).

Skull. 1. The head of a college: see Golgotha; whence *skull-race*, a university examination. 2. Any chief, as the President, the head of a business, the captain of a vessel, etc. *My skull's afly*, awake (q.v.), fly (q.v.).

Skull and Crossbones (The). The 17th (The Duke of Cambridge's Own) Lancers. [The Regimental Badge.] Also The Death or Glory Boys; Bingham's Dandies; The Gentlemen Dragoons; and The Horse Marines.

Skullduggery. See Scullduddery.

Skull-thatcher. 1. A straw-bonnet maker. 2. A hatter. 3. A wig-maker. *Skull-thatch*, a hat or wig.

Skungle. A generic verb of action: to decamp, to steal a watch, to gobble up food, etc.: cf. Skyugle.

Skunk. 1. A mean, paltry wretch; a stinkard (q.v.) (1841). 2. Utter defeat: as verb, (1) to disgrace: cf. Slam. (2) To neglect to pay.

Sky (or **Ski**) (Westminster). 1. Any one not of the school: an abbreviation or corruption of *Volsci*: the Westminster boys being *Romans*. 2. See Skyrocket. As verb, (1) to hang, throw, or hit high (e.g. a picture at the Royal Academy: whence *the sky*, the upper rows of exhibitors; a ball at cricket: hence *skyer* (or *skyscraper* a high hit); (2) to spend freely till all's blued (q.v.); *to sky a copper*, to spin a coin (1800); (3) (Harrow), to charge, knock down: at football: also to throw away. *If the sky falls we shall catch larks*, a retort to a wild hypothesis: cf. if pigs had wings they'd be likely birds to fly.

Sky-blue. 1. Gin (1755). 2. Diluted or separated milk (1800).

Sky-farmers. People that go about the country with a false pass, signed by the Church Wardens and Overseers of the parish or place that they lived in, and some Justice of the Peace, but the names are all forged; in this manner they extort money, under pretence of sustaining loss by fire, or the distemper amongst the horned cattle (*Poulter*).

Skygazer. A skysail.

Sky-godlin. Obliquely, askew.

Sky-lantern. The moon: see Oliver.

Skylark. Originally tricks in the rigging of H.M. Navy; hence any rough - and - tumble horseplay. As verb, to frolic, to play the fool; *skylarking*, boisterous merriment or fooling; and *skylarker*, a practical joker.

Skylarker. 1. A housebreaker following brick-laying as a blind. 2. See Skylark.

Skylight. The eye.

Sky-parlour. A garret (1807).

Sky-pilot. A clergyman, bible-pounder.

Skyrocket. 1. A pocket: also Sky. 2. Eccentricity.

Skyscraper. Generic for height: e.g. (1) a very tall man; (2) a very lofty building: spec. (American) erections sometimes twenty stories high; (3) a triangular sail set above the royals, a sky-sail, sky-gazer, or angel's footstool (q.v.); and (4) a skied ball: hence *skyscraping* and other derivatives. (5) A cocked hat.

Skypper. See Skipper.

Skyte (Shrewsbury). A day boy who lives or lodges in the town. As verb, (1) skite (q.v.); and (2) squitter (q.v.). *On the skyte*, drunk: see Screwed.

Skyugle. A corps staff officer informed me that he had been out on a general scyugle; that he had scyugled along the front, when the rebels scyugled a bullet through his clothes; that he should scyugle his servant; who, by the way, had scyugled three fat chickens; that after he had scyugled his dinner, he proposed to scyugle a nap (*Army and Navy Journal*).

Sky-wannocking. A drunken frolic.

Slab. 1. A milestone. 2. A bricklayer's boy (*Halliwell*). 3. A thick slice of bread and butter: cf. Doorstep. 4. In pl., a flat cake. *To slab off*, to reject.

Slabbering-bit. A neck-band: clerical or legal.

Slabberdegullion. See Slabberdegullion.

Slab-sided. Tall, lank, up and down in figure: also *slap-sided*.

Slack. 1. In pl., overall trousers. 2. A smashing or knock-down blow. Jack Slack, champion 1750-60, was known for his powerful delivery: also *slack-'un*: cf. Auctioneer and Mendoza. 3. A slack time. *To hold on the slack*: to skulk, to loaf.

Slack-jaw. Impertinence.

Slag. A slack-mettled fellow, one not ready to resent an affront (*Grose*).

Slake. To kiss.

Slam. 1. A trick. 2. At whist a game lost without scoring: also as verb, to take every trick: cf. Skunk. 3. A sloven: also *slamkin*, one whose clothes seem hung on with a pitchfork (*Grose*). 4. Any ill-made, awkward, ungainly wretch (1697). As verb, (1) to brag; spec. (military) to feign drunkenness and boast of many drinks: cf. Slum; (2) to patter (q.v.), to talk in the way of trade.

Slam-bang. See Slap.

Slamkin (**Slammocks**, or **Slammerkin**). A slut (q.v.). As verb, to slouch.

Slammer. Anything exceptional. Hence *slamming*, large, exceptional.

Slampam (**Slampaine**, **Slampambes**, or **Slampant**). A blow. *To cut off* (or *give the*) *slampambes*, to circumvent, to get the better of (1563).

Slamtrash. A sloven.

Slaney. A theatre.

Slang. 1. To speak slang. 2. To scold or abuse. 3. As adj., (1) relating to slang; (2) low, unrefined; and (3) angry: also *slangy* and *slangular*. *Slanginess*, the state of being slangy; *slang-boys* (or *boys of the slang*), those who speak slang; *slangster*, a master of flash (q.v.); *slangwhanger*, a speaker addicted to slang: whence *slang-whanging*, and *slangwhang*, to scold; *slangander* (American), to backbite; *slangoosing* (American), tittle-tattle, back-biting, esp. of women (1743). 4. A leg iron, a fetter (1785); formerly about three feet long, the slang being attached to an iron anklet riveted on the leg: the slack (q.v.) was slung to the waistbelt. 5. A watch-chain: in Dutch slang, *slang*, (*a*) a snake, and (*b*) a chain. 6. False weights and measures (e.g. a slang quart, 1½ pts.); as verb, to cheat by short weight or measure: also to defraud a person of any part of his due. 7. A beggar's pass, a hawker's license: any official instrument; *on the slang*, begging or peddling: hence, 8. a pursuit; a lay (q.v.); a lurk (q.v.). 9. (showmen's), (*a*) A travelling show, a cheap-jack's van; and (*b*) a performance; a turn (q.v.): e.g. the first, second, or third slang (q.v.), when more than one performance is given during the evening: also *the slangs*, (*a*) a collection of shows, and (*b*) the showman's profession; *slanging* and *slang-cull*, to exhibit anything in a fair or market, such as a tall man, or a cow with two heads; *slang-and-pitcher shop*, (*a*) a cheap-jack's van, an (*b*) a wholesale dealer in cheap-jack wares; *slang-tree*, (*a*) a stage, and (*b*) a trapeze: hence *to climb up the slang tree*, (*a*) to perform, and (*b*) to make an exhibition of oneself. *To slang the mauleys*, to shake hands.

Slangrill (or **Slangam**). A lout (1592).

Slant. 1. An opportunity, a chance: originally nautical, a favourable wind: e.g. a slant across the bay. 2. A side-blow. As verb, (1) to run away; (2) to exaggerate, to draw the long bow (q.v.); (3) to wager: see Lay.

Slantendicular (or **Slantingdicular**). Indirect; a slant (q.v.). Also as adv.

Slap. 1. Booty, plunder. 2. Make-up: also as verb. As adj., first-rate, smart (q.v.), prime (q.v.): also *slap-up*; cf. Bang-up; whence *slapper*, anything exceptional; *slapping*, very-big, excellent (1851). As adv., violently, plump, off-hand; also *slap-bang*, *slam-bang*, and *slap-dash*; as subs., (*a*) careless work, and (*b*) indiscriminate action; as verb, to go recklessly to work (1671). *A slap* (or *slat*) *in the face*, a rebuff, a reproach. See Slop up.

Slap-bang Shop. 1. A petty cook's shop, where there is no credit given, but what is had must be paid for, down with the ready slap-bang, i.e. immediately. This is a common appellation for a night cellar frequented by thieves (*Grose*). Also *Slam-bang shop*. 2. A stage coach, or caravan (1785). See Slap.

Slap-Jack. See Flap-jack.

Slappaty-pouch (or **Slatter-pouch**). Beating the arms on the chest to keep warm (1654).

Slap-sauce. A hanger-on, a toady. As adj., to sponge (q.v.) (1557).

Slap-sided. See Slab-sided.

Slash. An outside pocket. As verb, to criticise severely, sarcastically, or at random, to cut up (q.v.): also *to slash in*. Hence *slashing*, damning criticism; as adj., trenchant, harsh; *slasher*, a vigorous critic.

Slasher. 1. A bully, a bravo: see Furioso. 2. A pounding pugilist, a Hittite (q.v.). 3. See Slash (1593). 4. A sword. 5. Anything exceptional: hence *slashing*, exceptionally brilliant, vigorous, successful, expert, etc.: also as adv., as a slashing fine woman; a slashing good race; and so forth. *The Slashers*, the 1st Batt. Gloucestershire Regiment, formerly The 28th Foot: also The Old Braggs and The Rightabouts.

Slat. Half-a-crown: 2s. 6d.; see Rhino; also *slate*. As verb, to throw, beat, or move with violence (1604).

Slate. 1. A sheet: also *slat* (1567). 2. A preliminary list of candidates recommended to office; a party programme; in practice a secret understanding between leaders as to the candidates they desire the nominating Convention to adopt: *to smash* (or *break*) *the slate*, to defeat the wire-pullers; *to slate*, (*a*) to prepare, and (*b*) to be included in such a list;

slate-smasher, a leader who ignores the wishes of his party. As verb, (1) to reprimand or criticise, to cut up (q.v.): hence *slating* (or a *slate*), a blowing up, severe censure, unsparing criticism (1300); (2) a woman is said to be slated when her petticoat falls below her gown (*Halliwell*); (3) to bash a man's hat over the eyes, to bonnet (q.v.); (4) to bet heavily against an entry. *A slate off* (*loose*), etc., crazy, a tile loose (q.v.).

Slater's Pan. The gaol of Kingston in Jamaica; Slater is the deputy provost-marshal (*Grose*).

Slathers. Abundance, 'lashin's an' lavin's.'

Slaughter. 1. To sell at a sacrifice (q.v.): hence *slaughter-house*, a shop or auction-room where goods are bought or sold for what they will bring; *slaughterer*, (1) a vendor at cost, and (2) a buyer for re-manufacture: as books for pulp, cloth for shoddy, etc. (1851). *Slaughter of the Innocents*: see Innocent.

Slave-driver. 1. A harsh task-master, a strict master. 2. (Harrow cricket). The upper ground on these days is given up to practice at the nets for the eleven and the Sixth Form game, and to practise in fielding and catching; boys below the Removes have to fag for them, and these fags are managed by slave-drivers, three or four boys appointed for the purpose (*Great Public Schools*).

Slavey. A drudge — male or female, a servant of either sex (*Grose*). Also (old) *slaving gloke* (1821).

Sledge-hammer. To hit hard, to batter.

Sleek. See Slick.

Sleek-and-slum Shop. A public-house or tavern where single men and their wives resort (*Bee*).

Sleep. To provide sleeping accommodation: cf. Room. *To sleep on bones*, to sleep in a lap: e.g. Let not the child sleep on bones, i.e. in the nurse's lap (1670). *To sleep on both ears*, to sleep soundly, without a care (1633).

Sleep-drunk. Drowsy, confused: as on waking from heavy sleep.

Sleeper. 1. A sleeping-car. 2. Unclaimed money.

Sleeping-house. 'Sleepinge House, without Shop, Ware-House, or Cellar, only for a private Family' (*B. E.*).

Sleeping-partner. 1. A partner in a trade, or shop, who lends his name and money, for which he receives a share of the profit, without doing any part of the business (*Grose*). 2. A bed-fellow.

Sleepy. Much worn, threadbare: e.g. a *sleepy pear*, a pear beginning to decay; a *sleepless-hat*, shabby head-gear with nap worn off (*Grose*).

Sleepy-head. A dullard.

Sleepy, Queen's (The). The Queen's Royal Regiment, late the 2nd Foot.

Sleepy-seed. In pl., the mucous secretion about the eyelids during sleep: cf. Sand-man.

Sleeve. Here occur one or two phrases and colloquialisms: *To hang on* (or *upon*) *a sleeve*, to be dependent; *to laugh in one's sleeves*, to deride or exult in secret; *to wear one's heart upon one's sleeve*, to make no mystery, to be artless; *in* (or *up*) *one's sleeve*, hidden, in reserve, ready for use; *to pin to one's sleeve*, to flaunt; *to hang on another's sleeve*, to accept another's authority.

Sleeveboard. A hard word to pronounce, a jaw-breaker (q.v.).

Sleeveless. Fruitless, inadequate, wanting a cover or excuse, impertinent or trifling: now only in phrase, *a sleeveless errand*, a fool's errand (1400)

Slewed. Drunk: see Screwed: also *slued* (1845).

Slewer. A servant-girl: cf. Dutch slang *sluer* (or *sloor*), a poor, common woman.

Slibber-slabber. Careless.

Slick. 1. Quick, bold, direct, perfect: whence, 2. clever, plausible, expert, smart (q.v.): also *sleek* (1605). *To slick up*, to tittivate (q.v.), to smarten, to put in order.

Slick-a-die. A pocket-book: see Dee.

Slicker, subs. (Western American). An overcoat: spec. a waterproof: also *sleeker*.

Slide. 1. To decamp; to skip (q.v.): also *to slide out*, (1) to leave stealthily; and (2) to shirk: by artifice. 2. To backslide; to weaken (q.v.): e.g. from a resolution, attitude, or promise. As subs., an error, a falling away; *sliding*, transgression (1603). *To let slide*, to let go; to allow things to take care of themselves (1369).

Slide-groat. Shove-halfpenny (q.v.).

Slider. In pl., drawers.

Slide-thrift. See Shovel-board.

Slim. Delicate, feeble. As adv., resourceful, smart (q.v.).

Slime (Durham School). 1. To cut games. 2. To lounge, to loaf: e.g. *slimeing* down town. 3 (Felsted), To sneak along; *to do a slime*, to take a crafty advantage. 4 (Harrow). To go round quietly. 5 (Harrow). To make drops at rackets.

Sling. A generic verb of action. Thus (1), to throw away or pass to a confederate; and (2) to do easily; *to sling a pot*, to drink; *to sling the booze*, to stand treat; *to sling a bob* (a tanner — anything), to give; *to sling one's hook* (*bunk*, or *daniel*), to decamp; *to sling a daddle*, to shake hands: *to sling a cat*, to vomit; *to sling a tinkler*, to ring the bell; *to sling a poem*, *article*, or *book*, to write; *to sling a hat*, to wave one in applause; *to sling the smash*, to smuggle tobacco to prisoners; *to sling about*, to loaf; *to sling ink* (or *a pen*), to write: hence *inkslinger*, a clerk or author; *to sling a foot*, to dance; *to sling one in the eye*, to blacken it; *to kill a crow with an empty sling*, to gain without effort; *to sling off* (*patter*, or *jaw*), to talk, to abuse, to insinuate: cf. Slang; *to sling a snot*, to blow one's nose with the fingers: also *to sling*; *to sling* (or *jerk*) *a part*, to undertake a rôle: *to sling a nasty part*, to play so well that another would find it difficult to rival it; *to sling round on the loose*, to act recklessly; *sling yourself* (*let her sling!*) Bestir yourself.

Slinger. A piece of bread floating in tea.

Slinging. Covering, indefatigable, effortless.

Slink. 1. A sneak. 2. A greedy starveling. 3. A cheat: hence as adj. (or *slinky*), (1) sneaky, mean; and (2) thin, lank. 4. A bastard: cf. *slink*, to miscarry (of beasts).

Slip. 1. A counterfeit coin: also *slip-coin*: whence *to be nailed up for slips*, to be tried and found wanting (1592). 2. A miscarriage; an abortion: also as verb, to miscarry. Phrases: *To slip one's cable* (*breath*, or *wind*), to die: see Aloft; *to give the slip*, to escape unobserved; *a slip* (or *fall*) *'twixt cup and lip*, a thing not done may spoil in the doing; *to slip into*, (1) to attack, and (2) to execute with vigour; *to slip up*, to err, to trip; *a slip of the tongue*, an inadvertency in speech; *to make a slip*, to give chastity the go-by: whence see Slip.

Slip-along. See Slipshod.

Slip-gibbet (**halter, rope, string, or thrift**). A prodigal, one deserving of (or who has cheated) the gallows (1590).

Slippery. Soap: Fr., *glissant*. As adj. and adv., (1) untrustworthy, false, wanton: also *slipper*, *slippy*, and *slip skin*: whence *slippery-fellow* (or *trick*), deceitful (*B. E.*): one on whom there can be no dependence (*Grose*) (1553); (2) quick.

Slip-shod. Careless, slovenly: that is slipper-shod: also *slip-along*, *slip-slop* (1605).

Slip-slop. 1. A blunder: as adj., slovenly, inaccurate: cf. Slipshod (1797). 2. In pl., shoes (or slippers) down at the heels: also (Norfolk) *slip-shoe*. As adj., here and there, all over the shop: also *slip-slap* and verb (1721). See Slop.

Slip-thrift. See Slip-gibbet.

Slit. A pocket.

Slither. 1. To slip, to make away, to smooth. 2. To hurry. Also *slithery*, slippery (q.v.).

Slive. To sneak or lounge away, to idle. *Slive - Andrew*, good - for-nothing; *sliverly*, artful; *sliving*, idle. *To let slive*, to let fly (1707).

Slobber. Badly distributed ink. As verb, (1) to kiss effusively: also as subs. and *slabbering* (1583); (2) to scamp work: also *to slobber over*.

Slobberdegullion. See Slubberdegullion.

Slobberer. (1) A slovenly farmer; and (2) a jobbing tailor (*Halliwell*).

Slobgollion. Whaleman's term for an oozy stringy substance found in sperm oil (*C. Russell*).

Slog. 1. A blow. 2. A bout of fisticuffs. 3. A large portion, spec. a big slice of cake. As verb, (1) to hit, or work hard; (2) to punish (q.v.), to pound (pugilists'), and (3) to tackle a matter seriously. Whence *slogging-match*, a hard fight or tussle; *slogger*, (1) a pugilist given to hard hitting, and (2) a steady worker; *slogging*, a beating, a fight; and *to have a slog on*, to put on a spurt: in America the spelling *slug*, *slugger*, etc., is accepted.

Slogger (Camb. Univ.). 1. A boat in the second division: corresponding to the Oxford Torpids. See Slog.

Slop. 1. In pl., liquid food: spec. weak tea: or any thin beverage taken medicinally (*Grose*): also *slip-slop*: as adj., feeble, poor, weak; as verb, to eat or drink greedily, to mop up (q.v.): also *to slop* (or *slap*) *up*, or *to slop it*; *slopping-up*, a drinking bout; *slop-feeder*, a tea-spoon; *slop-tubs*, tea-things; *slip-sloppy*, slushy, watery (1515). 2. In pl., Wearing apparel and bedding used by seamen (*Grose*): hence ready-made clothing; *slop-seller*, a dealer in ready-made clothes; *slop-chest*, a ship's supply of clothes and bedding: usually doled out at cost price; *slop-book*, the register of supplies; *slop-work*, (1) the cheapest: hence (2) any work poorly done; *sloppy*, ill-fitting (originally an outer garment made of linen). 3. A tailor. 4. A policeman: a corruption of esclop (1851). 5. (Christ's Hospital). A term of contempt. As verb, (1) to make a mess; (2) to walk or work in the wet. *To slop over*, to enter into with enthusiasm and speak (write, or act) like a fool, to put on side (q.v.), to make a mistake (1859).

Slope. 1. To run away, to bunk (q.v.): as subs., an escape: e.g. *to do a slope* (1840). 2. To sleep (1610).

Sloper's Island. A weekly tenement neighbourhood: spec. *c.* 1870 the Artizan's Village near Loughborough Junction, originally in the midst of fields; now in the centre of a densely populated neighbourhood.

Slopper (The Leys School). A slop basin: cf. Footer, Brekker, etc.

Sloppy. Loose, slovenly.

Slosh. A drink. As verb, to go here and there, *to knock about* (q.v.) (1854).

Slosher (Cheltenham College). A boarding-house assistant: they are charged with superintending dormitories, the evening work, etc.

Slouch. 1. A clumsy lout, an idler. 2. Anything indifferent: usually in phrase *no slouch*. 3. An awkward lumpish gait: as verb, to walk lumpishly or sullenly; *slouching* (or *slouchy*), awkward, ungainly, heavy (*Grose*) (1570). 4. A slouch-hat (i.e. a hat with a broad and drooping brim) (1818).

Slour. To lock up, to fasten, to button up one's coat, to make all secure (*Grose*).

Slow. A sluggard, a lazybones. As adv., (1) stupid; spiritless, tedious (1855); (2) (Winchester). Ignorant of Winchester notions (q.v.).

Slow-back. A loafer (1619).

Slowcoach. 1. A dullard, a lout. 2. A dawdler. 3. An antique, a fossil (1857).

Slow-up. A slackening of speed. Also as verb, to go easy.

Slubberdegullion. A slovenly, dirty, nasty fellow (*B. E.*). Also *Slabberdegullion*. As adj., paltry, dirty (1619).

Slued. See Slewed.

Slug. Generic for sloth. 1. A drone, a lazybones: also *slug-a-bed*, and (now accepted) *sluggard*. 2. A hindrance. 3. A slow-paced boat, horse, etc., or (*B. E.*) a dull-edged tool; as adj. (also *sluggish* and *sluggy*), lazy, slow; as verb, (1) to laze, and (2) to hinder (1383). 4. A dram: hence *to fire* (or *cant*) *a slug*, to drink (*Grose*) (1762). 5. An ingot of gold; a twenty-dollar piece (*Ency. Dict.*), but in *Century Dict.* a gold coin of the value of fifty dollars privately issued in San Francisco during the mining excitement of 1849.

Slugger. See Slogger.

Sluice. The mouth: also *sluice-house*. As verb, to paddle, to bathe (or wet) freely (1859). *To sluice the bolt* (*dominoes*, *gob*, or *ivories*), to drink heartily: see Dominoes (*Grose*): *sluicery*, a public-house (*Grose*). *To sluice off*, to divert, to lay aside (1862).

Slum. 1. Nonsense, a trick, a swindle: e.g. a sham begging letter, a roll of snide notes, etc.: hence *up to slum*, knowing, not to be had (q.v.); *to fake the slum*, to do the trick. 2. Idle talk; as verb, (1) to trick, to cheat; and (2) to talk idly, or to speak slang (1821). 3. A room. 4. A squalid street or neighbourhood, a rookery (q.v.): usually in pl., with back: as verb, (*a*) to explore poor quarters out of curiosity or charity; (*b*) to keep to back streets to avoid observation; and (*c*) to keep in the background. 5. A letter, a package: anything in hand. 6. The call; *slum-fake*, the coffin; *slumming*, acting (1872).

Slumgullion. A representative, a servant (*Bartlett*).

Slumguzzle. To deceive. Hence *slumguzzling*, humbuggery (*Bartlett*).

Slummy. A servant girl.

Slump. 1. A sudden fall: of prices; an ignominious failure: e.g. a slump in Kaffirs: as verb, to fall heavily (Scots') *slump*, all of a piece, to come down with a rush. 2. A gross amount; the whole: e.g. a slump sum: as verb, to lump, group together (1856). 3. To recite badly, fail, bungle.

Slung. *Slung out on hands and knees*, instantly dismissed.

Slur. 1. A cheat at dice; also a slight scandal or affront (*B. E.*). 2. To cheat (1664).

Slush. 1. Food. 2. A foul feeder: also *slush-bucket*; *slusher* (or *slushy*). 3. A drunkard. 4. Indifferent matter, padding (q.v.).

Slut. 1. A dirty housewife. 2. An awkward person or thing. 3. A wench (q.v.): cf. Quean. 4. A bitch. As verb, to befoul; *sluttery* (also *sluttishness*), neglect; *sluttish*, (1) wanton; and (2) untidy (1400).

Sly. 1. Under the rose; transacting business privately is frequently said to be done upon the sly (*Grose*). 2. Illicit: also *by the sly*; *to run sly*, to escape, to evade (1787).

Slyboots. A seemingly simple but really clever and designing fellow (*B. E.*) (1680).

Smabbled (or **Snabbled**). Killed in battle.

Smack. 1. A twang or ill taste (*B. E.*). 2. A liking, a fancy: e.g. He had a real smack for the old 'un: cf. *smackering*, a longing for (*Bailey*). 3. A kiss: also *smacker*: whence *to smack calf's skin*, to take oath (1786). *Smack-smooth*, level with the surface, everything cut away (*Grose*) (1790).

Smacking-cove. A coachman (*B. E.*).

Small. 1. In pl., breeches: spec. the close-fitting knee-breeches of the 18th and early 19th centuries: also *small-clothes* (*Grose*: A gird at the affected delicacy of the present age; a suit being called coat, waistcoat, and —articles or small clothes). 2. In pl., Greats, so far as the name existed in my time, meant the Public Examination, as distinguished from Responsions, Little-go, or smalls (*Freeman*). In pl., *Little-go* is the Cambridge equivalent: properly Responsions. 3. A one-night performance in a small town or village by a minor company carrying its own fit-up. As adv., timidly, humbly: e.g. to sing (or speak) small (q.v.).

Small-and-early. An evening party: informal and breaking up at an early hour (1865).

Small beer. 1. Weak beer. 2. trifles; *to chronicle small beer*, (1) to engage in trivial occupations, and (2) to retail petty scandal; *to think small beer of anything*, to have a poor opinion of it. Also *small things*. As adj., petty (1604).

Small cap. O. A second or inferior in command, an under overseer.

Small cheque. A dram, a drink. *To knock down a cheque*, to spend all in drink.

Small Fry. Generic (1) for things little; and (2) for things trifling or valueless.

Small Hours. The first three or four hours after midnight: usually the small hours of the morning. Also *short hours* (1796).

Small Potatoes. See Potato.

Small pill (The Leys School). A diminutive football used on runs.

Smart. Generic for superior, out of the common, distinguished. [In senses 1, 2, and 3 there is often, but not necessarily, an implied suspicion of something questionable. 1. Lively, witty, pert (*B. E.*): e.g. *a smart* (clever) *book*; *a smart* (ready) *reply*; *a smart* (bright) *saying*; *a smart* (sparkling) *speech*; *a smart* (brisk) *lad*, etc. 2. Well-dressed, fashionable, brilliant e.g. *a smart* (elegant and modish) *frock*; *a smart* (attractive and amusing) *show*; *smart* (fashionable) *society*: hence *smart*, subs., (1) a dandy (old), and (2) one in advance of the prevailing standard of good taste. 3. Quick, expert, shrewd: e.g. *a smart* (precocious) *child*; *a smart* (clever) *workman*; *a smart* (enterprising) *tradesman*; *a smart* (capable, active, and neat) *soldier*, *sailor*, *hand*, etc. 4. (American), clever, knavish, and unscrupulous. 5. (Prov.), Cold: e.g. *a smart* (biting) *morning*. 6. (colloquial) Uncommon: e.g. *smart* (hard) *going*; *smart* (resolute and lively) *hitting*; *smart* (capable) *work*. As adv., very, large, considerable, vigorously: with such derivatives and combinations as *smarty* (subs.), *smartness* (subs.), and *smartish* (adj.) (1383). See Smart-money.

Smart-money. (1) Given by the King, when a man in land or sea-service has a leg shot or cut off, or is disabled (*B. E.*); hence (2) a fine; and (3) vindictive damages: also *smart*.

Smash. 1. Iced brandy and water. 2. Mashed vegetables: potatoes, turnips, and the like (*Grose*) (1851). 3. Tobacco: hence *to sling the smash*, to pass tobacco to a prisoner. As verb, (1) to utter base coin: hence *smasher*, (*a*) base coin or paper; and (*b*) one who passes base money into circulation; (2) to give change: as subs., loose change; (1823); (3) to ruinate, to go bankrupt: also (military) to be reduced or broke: as subs. (or *smash-up*), ruin, destruction, bankruptcy; *all to smash*, all to pieces, completely (1847); (4) to beat badly; to double up; hence *smasher*, a settling blow; (1832); (5) to kick downstairs: e.g. The chubbs toute the blosses, they smash, and make them brush, The sharpers catch their mistresses on the hop, kick them downstairs, and make them clear out (*B. E.*).

Smasher. 1. Anything exceptional, a settler: whence *smashing*, crushing (1854). 2. See Smash. 3. A north country seaman (*Clark Russell*).

Smash-feeder. A Britannia-metal spoon.

Smatterer. One half-learned. A *Smattering*, a slight tincture in any skill or learning (*B. E.*).

Smear. 1. A plasterer (*Grose*). 2. Food, hash, grub: espec. a society spread or supper (*Bartlett*).

Smear-gelt. A bribe (*Grose*).

Smectymnus. A word made out of the first letters of the names of five Presbyterian ministers, viz. **S**tephen **M**arshall, **E**dmund **C**ulamy, **T**homas **Y**oung, **M**athew **N**ewcomen, and **W**illiam **S**purstow, who wrote a book against Episcopacy, and the Common Prayer, A.D. 1641, whence they and their followers were called Smectymnians.

Smeekit. Drunk: see Screwed.

Smell. To investigate, to search; to nose (q.v.): also *to smell out*. Hence *smelling committee*, an investigating committee. [*Bartlett*: the phrase originated in the examination of a convent in Massachusetts by legislative order] (1555). See Smeller, Cork, Elbow-grease, Foot-lights, Grease, Ink-horn, Lamp, Rat, Roast.

Smeller. 1. The nose: see Conk (1678): in pl., nostrils. 2. A blow on the nose, a nosender. 3. In pl., a cat's whiskers (*Grose*). 4. A spy; a Paul Pry (q.v.).

Smell-feast. 1. A parasitic glutton; as adj., sharking for victuals. 2. A point (q.v.) feast (1599).

Smelling-cheat. 1. The nose: see Cheat and Smeller (1567). 2. An orchard, garden, or nosegay (*Harman*).

Smell-smock. See Smock.

Smelly. Offensively odorous (1863).

Smell-powder. A duellist (*Bee*).

Smelt. 1. A fool, gull; hence (proverbial), Westward for smelts! (old colloquial), on the spree (i.e. in search of conies, male or female (1600). 2. Half-a-guinea (*B. E.*).

Smicker. To look wantonly: as adj., amorous; *smickering*, amorous inclination; *smickly*, amorously (1606).

Smicket. A smock or shift (1719).

Smiggins. Hulk soup.

Smile. A drink: as verb, to drink, spec. in company: cf. Shout (1855).

Smiling. *To come up smiling*, to rise superior to the moment.

Smirk. A finical spruce fellow. To smirk, to smile or look pleasantly (*B. E.*).

Smish. A chemise, a shirt: cf. Camesa and Mish (*Grose*).

Smite. To get money, to rush (q.v.): acamedic term (*Grose*).

Smiter. 1. A sword (1591). 2. An arm (*B. E.*).

Smithereens (or **Smithers**). Small fragments. *All to smithereens*, all to smash (q.v.) (1855).

Smithfield-bargain. A bargain whereby the purchaser is taken in. This is likewise frequently used to express matches, or marriages, contracted solely on the score of interest, on one or both sides, where the fair sex are bought and sold like cattle in Smithfield (*Grose*). A marriage of interest, where money is the chief consideration: the allusion is to buying a wife in Smithfield. Cf. Breton, *Olde Man's Lesson* (1605), p. 7: Fie on these market matches, where marriages are made without affection (*Davies*) (1598).

Smock. A woman: cf. Petticoat, Placket, Skirt, Muslin, etc. Hence, in combination, pertaining to, or connected with women. Thus *smock-face*, an effeminate; *smock-faced*, snout-fair (*B. E.*), fair-faced (*Grose*), smooth-faced; *smock-vermin*, a contemptuous address; *smock-hold*, tenure during a wife's lifetime; *smock-government* (or *smock-led*), petticoat rule.

Smoke. 1. A chimney; hence (modern) *the smoke*, any large city: spec. London: also *the great smoke* (1687). 2. A cigar: also the act of smoking; *dry-smoke*, an unlighted cigar or pipe between the lips. 3. Idle talk, vanity, anything of little or no value; *to end in smoke*, to serve or come to no useful end (1594). As verb, (1) to examine, to suspect, to observe, to discover, to understand, to twig (q.v.): cf. Smell, Nose, etc.: whence *smoky*, (*a*) suspicious, inquisitive; and (*b*) jealous (*B. E.*) (1280); (2) to blush; (3) to ridicule; to quiz (q.v.): whence *smoker*, a mocker, a practical joker; *smoking*, bantering (1698); (4) To affront a stranger at his coming in (*B. E.*); (5) to raise a dust by beating: cf. *to dust one's jacket* (1596); (6) to decamp. Phrases: *Like smoke*, rapidly: see Like; *all smoke, gammon, and spinnach*, all nothing; *No smoke*, but there's fire (or, where there's *smoke* there's fire), of a thing that will out (*B. E.*). See Knock, Pipe, Take (1851).

Smoker (or Smoke-shell). 1. A chamber-pot: see It. 2. A vessel to blind the enemies, to make way for the machine to play (*B. E.*) 3. A smoking-carriage: see Smoke. 4. A tobacconist (*B. E.*). 5. At Preston, before the passing of the Reform Bill in 1832, every person who had a cottage with a chimney and used the latter had a vote, and was called a smoker (*Halliwell*).

Smoke-stack. A steamboat.

Smooth. A meadow, a grass-plot, a lawn.

Smoother. A parasite, sponger (1653).

Smotheration. 1. Suffocation. 2. A dish (pork or beef) smothered with potatoes (cf. smother, an old cookery term—rabbits smothered in onions).

Smouch. 1. A low-crowned hat (*Halliwell*). 2. See Smous. As verb, (1) to kiss: as subs. (or *smoucher*), a kiss (1578); (2) to chouse, to trick, to take an unfair advantage.

Smous (or Smouch). (1) A Jew (*Grose*); also (2) a sharper (1705).

Smouting. By-work, odd jobs done by printers (1688): now grassing (q.v.).

Smouze. To demolish: as with a blow.

Smug. 1. A blacksmith (*B. E.*) (1611). 2. An affectedly proper or self-satisfied person; hence as adj., neat and spruce (*B. E.*). 3. A hard-reading student. As verb, (1) to work or study hard; (2) to pilfer, to snatch, to sneak into favour: hence *smuggings*. Games had . . . times or seasons . . . when any game was out, as it was termed, it was lawful to steal the thing played with . . . Tops are in, spin 'em again, Tops are out, smugging's about. *Smug-lay*, Persons who pretend to be smugglers of lace and valuable articles; these men borrow money of publicans by depositing their goods in their hands; they shortly afterwards decamp, and the publican discovers too late that he has been duped, and on opening the pretended treasure he finds trifling articles of no value (*Grose*): also *smuggler*. 4. To hush up. 5. To steal. 6. To apprehend (1857).

Smuggle. 1. To cuddle, to fondle, cf. Snuggle (1698). 2. To sharpen a pencil at both ends. *Smuggler*, a pencil thus sharpened.

Smuggling-ken. A bawdy house (*Grose*).

Smulkin. A brass farthing (Irish): *temp.* Eliz.

Smusa. To snatch or seize suddenly (*Grose*).

Smut. 1. Obscenity; ribaldry (1698). Hence *smutty*, lewd, obscene; *smuttiness*, bawdry. 2. A copper boiler. 3. A grate. 4. Old iron. See Brother Smut.

Snabble. Generic for force: e.g. to rifle, plunder, arrest, kill, eat greedily (1724).

Snabby (or Snab). Stylish, tasteful, good-looking [*Bartlett*: a college word].

Snack. 1. A share, a portion:

to go snacks (or *to snack*), to share; to divide (1675). 2. A hasty meal, a bite (q.v.) (1763). 3. An innuendo, a jibe: e.g. That's a nasty snack for you: as verb, to quiz, to roast (q.v.). 4. (Winchester College). A racket ball.

Snaffle. Talk: spec. conversation uninteresting or unintelligible to those present: cf. Shop. As verb, (1) to steal; whence *snaffle* (or *snaffler*), a thief: spec. a highwayman; *snaffling-lay*, highway robbery; *snaffled*, arrested (1724); (2) to arrest, to pull up (q.v.).

Snag. 1. A tooth: spec. a long irregular tooth: also *snaggler*: see Grinders: whence *snag-catcher*, a dentist (1717). 2. An unsuspected hindrance or set-back: orig. American a half sunken tree impeding river navigation: hence, as verb, to embarrass; *to catch a snag*, to get a rebuff, to get snubbed: cf. Snack. 3. A snail (*B. E.*). *To snag on*, to attach oneself to another.

Snaggle. To angle for poultry.

Snail. A drone: cf. slug. Hence as verb (or *to go at a snail's pace* or *gallop*) to move very slowly (1582).

Snake. 1. A term of contempt, 2. A secret plotter, a hidden foe: e.g. a snake in the grass (1600). 3. A skein of silk. As verb, (1) to steal warily: cf. Sneak; (2) to beat, to thrash. Phrases: *To snake out* (*along* or *up*), to drag or worm out; *to snake in*, to steal in, to draw in; *to give one a snake*, to vex; *to snake the pool*, to take the pool (billiards); *a caution to snakes*, a matter of surprise, something singular, a revelation (q.v.); *snakes in the boots*, delirium tremens: also *to see snakes*; *As sure as there's snakes in Virginny*, as sure as may be.

Snake-in-the-grass. A glass. See Snake.

Snakesman. See Sneak.

Snam. To steal: spec. to snatch from the person: also *on the snam*.

Snap. 1. A sharper, a pilferer, a cheat: spec. a thief claiming a share of booty; occasionally a sharking lawyer: also *snapper* and *snapper-up*: as verb, to claim a share, to nap the regulars (q.v.); *on the snap*, (*a*) waiting a chance of robbery; and (*b*) looking out for odd jobs (1604). 2. A scrap, a portion, a share: cf. Snack; hence a small standard of value: e.g. *not a snap*, nothing; *not worth a snap*, worthless (1561). 3. A project, a business — any happening: e.g. *a cold snap*, a sudden spell of cold weather; *a soft snap*, a pleasant time, a profitable affair; *to give the snap away*, to discover: also *snap* (theatrical), a short engagement. 4. A hasty meal, a snack (q.v.). 5. Knowledge, energy, go (q.v.), *snappy*, lively, amusing. As adj., on the spur of the moment, without preparation: as subs., a chance (or scratch) comer, player, crew, team, etc.; thus, a *snap-division*, an unexpected vote; *snap-judgment*, a verdict hastily got or given; *snap-shot*, (*a*) a shot fired without deliberate aim, and (*b*) a photograph taken unawares; as verb, to take an instantaneous photograph with a hand camera: also *to snap-shot*. Phrases: *To snap the glaze*, to smash shop windows (*Grose*); *to snap the eye*, to wink; *on the snap*, on the look-out, on the mouch (q.v.).

Snapped. 1. Drunk: see Screwed (1844). 2. Taken, caught (*B. E.*).

Snapper. 1. A pistol (1587). 2. A castanet. 3. A cracker bonbon (1837). 4. A braggart: also *snapperhead*. *The Snappers*, The East Yorkshire Regiment, formerly The 15th Foot: also The Poona Guards.

Snappish. Peevish, quarrelsome (a man); apt to bite (a dog) (*B. E.*).

Snap-shot. See Snap.

Snarler. A dog.

Snatch. 1. A shuffling answer, an evasive reply (1603). 2. A hasty meal; a snack (q.v.); also *snatch and away* (1573). *In* (or *by*) *snatches*, by fits and starts, spasmodically: also *snatchy* (1573).

Snatcher. A thief: spec. a camp-follower (1599). *Snatch-cly*, a pickpocket (*Grose*). See Bodysnatcher.

Snatch-pastry. A greedy fellow.

Snavel. To steal: spec. by snatching or picking (q.v.): cf. Snabble and see Running snabble.

Sneak. A petty thief: also *sneak-thief*, *sneaking-budge*, *sneaksman*, and *area-sneak*, and cf. Ramp and Rush; The sneak is the practice of robbing houses or shops, by slipping in unperceived, and taking whatever may lay most convenient; this is commonly the first branch of thieving, in which young boys are initiated, who, from their size and activity, appear well adapted for it; to sneak a place is to rob it *upon the sneak*; a sneak is a robbery effected in the above manner; one or more prisoners having escaped from their confinement by stealth, without using any violence, or alarming their keepers, are said to have sneak'd 'em, or given it to 'em upon the sneak (*Vaux*): hence *morning-sneak*, an early bird (q.v.); *evening-sneak*, a night thief; *upright sneak*, a thief preying on potboys (*B. E.*); as verb, to pilfer, to steal: spec. to walk about undefinedly, to see what may be picked up; *sneaking on the lurk* (or *on the sneak*), prowling for booty. 2. In pl., shoes with canvas tops and india-rubber soles. 3. A ground ball having no pitch whatever; a daisy-trimmer (or cutter), grub, or undergrounder (q.v.).

Sneakbill. See Sneaksby.

Sneak-cup. One who shies his drink: hence, a paltry fellow, also *sneak-up* (1598).

Sneaker. 1. A small bowl: e.g. a sneaker of punch. 2. A sneak.

Sneaking. Unavowed, undemonstrative; e.g. a sneaking kindness (liking, or preference) (1753).

Sneaksby (**Sneakbill**, or **Sneaksbill**). A sneak: cf. Idlesby, Suresby, Rudesby, Lewdsby, Wigsby, etc. (*Grose*). Also *sneaking*, sheepish or mean spirited (*B. E.*); *sneakbill*, sneaking (1577).

Sneck-drawer. A latchlifter, a slyboots. *Sneck - drawing*, crafty, cheating (1401).

Sneck up! Go hang! Also *snick up* (1599).

Snee. See Snick-and-snee.

Sneerg. Greens.

Sneering. Jeering, flickering, laughing in scorn (*B. E.*).

Sneeze. 1. Snuff: also *snish*. 2. The nose: see Sneezer. *To sneeze at*, to despise, to scorn: usually in phrase not to be sneezed at, worth having or considering (1820).

Sneeze- (or **Snuff-**) **lurker.** A thief working with snuff, pepper, and the like. *To give on the sneeze* (or *snuff*) *racket*, to dose a man in the eyes, and then rob him (*Grose*).

Sneezer. 1. Severe weather: as a hard frost or a violent gale. 2. Anything exceptional—a stiff glass, a knock-out blow. 3. A martinet. 4. The nose: also *sneeve*: see Conk. 5. A pocket-handkerchief. 6. A snuff-box: also *sneezing coffer*.

Sneezy. The second month (*Brumaire*, foggy) of the French Republican Calendar.

Snell. A needle. Hence *snell-fencer*, a needle-hawker.

Snib. A prig (q.v.).

Snicker. 1. A drinking cup; *horn-snicker*, a drinking-horn. 2. A glandered horse.

Snickersnee. 1. A knife. 2. A combat with knives: also *snick-and-snee* (1617).

Snick-fadge. A petty thief.

Snickle. To inform, to peach (q.v.) (1859).

Snicktog. To go shares.

Snide (or **Snid.**) 1. Sixpence: see Rhino. 2. Anything mean or spurious: as a contemptible wretch, counterfeit coin, etc. As adj. (also *sniddy* or *snidey*), bad, wretched, contemptible, or (army) dirty. *Snide-pitching*, passing base coin.

Sniffy. Disdainful.

Snifter. 1. A long-drawn breath. 2. A dram, a go (q.v.). 3. A blizzard.

Snifty. Pleasant smelling.

Snigger (or **Snicker**). To laugh privately or in one's sleeve (*B. E.*); ill suppressed laughter (*Bee*).

Snilch [sic.]. To see, to watch closely (*B.E.*).

Snip. 1. A share, a piece, a snack (q.v.); *to go snips*, to share. 2. A good tip: also *snippet*, a small piece; *snippy* (or *snippety*), fragmentary, absurdly small (1621). 3. A tailor: also *snipper*, *snip-cabbage*, and *snip-louse*; *snipes*, scissors (*Vaux*).

Snipe. 1. A thin thing, male or female: in America, a small child. 2. A simpleton; *snipe-knave* (*Cotgrave*): so called because two of them are worth but one snipe (1602). 3. A lawyer. 4. A long bill. 5. In pl., the fingers (1834). 6. Scissors (*Grose*). 7. A half-smoked cigar. 8. A curbstone broker, a gutter-snipe (q.v.) (1870). As verb, to fire at random into a camp.

Snipper-snapper. An insignificant person, a whipper-snapper (q.v.) (1677).

Snippy (**Snipenny**, **Sniptious**, or **Snippish**). Vain, conceited, pert.

Snip-snap. A neat verbal effect. As adj., quick, sharp, smart (q.v.) (1594).

Snirp. An undersized contemptible wretch.

Snitch. 1. In pl., handcuffs: also *snitchers*. 2. A fillip on the nose (*B. E.*): also *snitchel*. 3. The nose. As verb, (1) to inform; hence *snitcher*, an informer; (2) to nark (q.v.) (1812).

Snitched. Glandered.

Snite. To wipe; *to snite a candle*, to snuff it; *snite his snitch*, wipe his nose or give him a good flap on the face (*B. E.*) (1400).

Sniv. 1. To hold one's tongue: e.g. *Sniv that!* 2. Bender! (q.v.).

Snivel. Hypocrisy, cant (q.v.): as verb, to complain, to bleat (q.v.). Hence *sniveller* (or *snivelard*), a whining malcontent; *snivelling*, hypocritical repentance (1440).

Snivel-nose. A niggard (*Halliwell*).

Snoach. To speak through the nose, to snuffle (1785).

Snob. 1. A shoemaker (*Grose*); spec. a journeyman cobbler (*Halliwell*) 2. An inferior. 3. A toadying or blatant vulgarian: also as adj. with numerous derivatives: e.g. *snobbery*, *snobbishness*, and *snobbism*, *snobbess*, *snobbish*, *snobbishly*, and *snobby*, *snobling*, *snobocracy*, *snobographer*, and *snobography*. 4. A blackleg, knobstick, rat, scab (q.v.). 5. Mucus, snot (q.v.). As verb, to sloven one's work: cf. Snobbery.

Snobbery. Bad work, slack trade, etc.: cf. Snob. *To hide the snobbery*, to conceal imperfections or cover up inferior work.

Snob's-boot. Sixpence: see Rhino.

Snob's-duck. A leg of mutton, stuffed with sage and onions.

Snobstick. A black-leg, rat, knobstick (q.v.): also *snob*.

Snock. To land a blow: e.g. *to snock on the gob*, to punch one in the mouth.

Snoddy. A soldier.

Snook. In pl., the imaginary name of a practical joker; also a derisive retort on an idle question—*Snooks!* As verb, (1) to pry, to watch, to dog (q.v.): also *snoop*; (2) to pick (q.v.): hence *snook* (*snoop*, *snooker*, or *snooper*), a spy, a sneak, a Paul Pry (q.v.) (1653). *To cut* (or *cock*) *snooks*, see Sight.

Snooker (Royal Military Academy). A cadet-student of the fourth class, a freshman.

Snooze. 1. Sleep: spec. a nap (q.v.): also *snoozem*. 2. A bed: see Kip. As verb (or *snoozle*), to nestle; *snoozer*, (*a*) a sleepy-head, and (*b*) a domiciled boarding-house or hotel thief; *snoozing*, sleep; *snooze-ken* (or *snoozing-ken*), (*a*) a bed, (*b*) a bedroom, (*c*) a lodging-house, (*d*) a brothel; *snooze-case*, a pillow-slip; *snoozy*, a night watchman or constable (*Grose*).

Snopsy (**Snops**, or **Snaps**). Gin (i.e. Schnaps).

Snork (Shrewsbury School). To excel, to surpass: e.g. to do the whole of an examination paper, or to cap another in argument or repartee.

Snort. To laugh in derision (1835).

Snorter. 1. Anything large or exceptional: spec. a gale of wind, a heavy snow-storm: cf. Sneezer (1830). 2. The nose: see Conk.

Snot. 1. Nasal mucus. 2. A contemptible wretch: also *snotter* and *snottie*, a midshipman. As verb, (1) to blow the nose; (2) to act scurvily; *snottery*, filth (1598); *snotty*, running at the nose, mean, dirty; *snotty-nosed*, contemptible, filthy; *snot-gall* (or *snotter*), the nose; *snot-rag* (*snottinger*, or *snotter*), (1) a pocket-handkerchief; and (2) the nose (also *snot-* and *snottle-box*): *snotter* also, a handkerchief thief: *snotter-hauling*, sneaking of wipes (q.v.); *snotted*, reprimanded: Fr., *mouché*.

Snout. 1. The nose: in contempt. 2. The face: also *snout-piece* (1785); *snout-fair*, pretty, comely (1567). 3. Tobacco: see Wright and Trafficking; also (itinerants') a cigar.

Snow. Linen: spec. linen hung out to dry: also *snowy*. Hence *snow-gatherer* (or *dropper*), a hedge-thief.

Snowball. A negro (*Grose*): Fr., *boule de neige*.

Snow-broth. 1. Snow-water (*B. E.*). 2. Cold lap (q.v.) (1603).

Snub. To check, to rebuke. See Snob.

Snub-devil. A parson.

Snub-nose. A short nose turned up at the end (*Grose*).

Snudge. 1. A miser, a curmudgeon hence as adj. (*snudge-like* (or *snudging*, miserly, mean, crabby; as verb, to grasp, to screw; *snudgery*, meanness (1531). 2. A thief concealing himself under a bed (*B. E.*).

Snudge-snout. A dirty fellow (1606).

Snuff. The drainings of a glass,

heel-taps (q.v.) (1641). As verb, to be testy, easily offended: also *to take snuff*, or *to snuff pepper*: see Pepper. Whence *in snuff*, in dudgeon: *to give snuff*, to reprimand, to rebuke, to scold; *snuffy*, (1) offended, and (2) drunk; *snuff*, a pet (q.v.) (1584). Phrases: *Up to snuff*, not to be deceived, wideawake (q.v.), knowing (q.v.); *to snuff out*, to silence, settle, annihilate; *to snuff it*, to die: see Sneezelurk (1785).

Snuffle. In pl., a cold in the head: as verb, to speak gruffly or through the nose (1789).

Snuffler. A preacher. Hence *snuffling*, canting (1861).

Snuffy. Tipsy: see Screwed. As adj., drunk: see Screwed. *All snug*, All's quiet. See Bug.

Snuggery. A comfortable privacy: as a woman's boudoir, a man's smoking den, a bar-parlour (1837).

Snyder (or Snider). A tailor (1600).

So. 1. Drunk: see Screwed: also *so-so* (1809). 2. Pregnant, lumpy (q.v.). 3. In courses. As intj., a questioning reply to a positive statement: e.g. The King returns to town to-day. So? *So-and-so*, (1) somebody or something indefinite; and (2) in place of a thing forgotten, or which it is not desired to mention: e.g. Mr. So-and-so. *So long!* Good-bye! *So-so*, ordinary, mediocre, nothing to speak of (1530).

Soak. 1. A drinking bout. 2. A hard drinker: also *soaker*: as verb, to steep oneself in drink, to booze (q.v.): whence *soaking*, hard drinking; *soaked*, drunk: see Screwed: *to set soaking*, to ply the pot (1700). As verb, (1) to pawn: also *to put in soak*; (2) to be lavish of bait; (3) to sit lazily over the fire (*Halliwell*).

Soaker. A heavy rain. See Soak (1851).

Soap. 1. Flattery: also *soft-soap*: cf. Soft-sawder: as verb, to flatter, to carney (q.v.): *soapy*, *smooth-tongued* (1840). 2. Money: generic: spec. secret service money: as verb, to bribe (1834). 3. (Royal Military Academy). Cheese.

Soap-and-bullion. Soup-and-bouilli. Jack calls it soap-and-bullion: one onion to a gallon of water, and this fairly expresses the character of the nauseous compound.

Soap-crawler. A toady.

Soap-lock (or curl). 1. A soaped lock of hair on the temple (1844). 2. A rowdy (*Bartlett*).

Soap-suds. Gin and water, hot, with lemon and lump sugar (*Bee*).

Soap-trick. A variety of the well-known purse swindle. A cake of soap is sold for a dollar to a gull who thinks he has that one he has wrapped a five-dollar bill in, and marked himself. Hence, *soaper*, a soap-trick swindler.

Soary. Inclined to draw the long bow, high-falutin' (q.v.).

Sobersides. A sedate person (1852).

Sober-water. Soda-water.

Soc. Society: non-Soc-man, a rat (q.v.), a blackleg, a non-Union-man.

Socius (Winchester). A chum, a companion: as verb, to accompany. [The School precept is *Sociati omnes incedunto.*]

Sock. 1. A pocket: Not a rag in my sock, penniless (*B. E.*). 2 (Eton College). Edibles of any kind: spec. dainties, tuck (q.v.): as verb, (*a*) to eat outside regular meals: (*b*) to treat (q.v.); whence (*c*) to give (1550) 3. Credit, jaw-bone (q.v.): also as verb, (*a*) to get credit, and (*b*) to pay: also *to sock down*. 4. An over-grown baby (*Ency. Dict.*). 5. A comedy: the sock, an ancient ensign of comedy; the buskin, tragedy: whence *sock-and-buskin*, the profession (q.v.) (1590). As verb, (1) to beat, to drub (*B. E.*), to press hardly: also as subs.: e.g. sock it him, or give him sock (or socks), Pitch into him, dress him down; whence *socker*, a heavy blow; (2) to smash a hat over head and ears, to bonnet (q.v.); (3) to hit hard: spec. at cricket: also to defeat; (4) to sew up (1584).

Sockdologer (Socdologer, Stockdologer, Slogdologer, or Sogdologer). Anything overwhelming or exceptional: from a repartee to an earthquake: generic: also as verb (1824).

Socker. 1. A fool, sloven, lout: a general term of contempt: also *sockie* and *sockhead* (1772). 2. Association Football: cf. Rugger: also *soccer*.

Socket. *Burnt to the socket*, dying (*Ray*).

Socket-money. 1. Demanded and spent upon marriage (*B. E.*). 2. Money paid by a married man caught in an intrigue (*Grose*). Hence *socketer*, a blackmailer (1772).

Sodger. See Soger.

Sodom. 1. Wadham College, Oxford. 2. London: cf. Babylon.

☞ **Soft.** Bank notes: generic: also *soft-flimsy*. *To do soft*, to utter counterfeit notes. As adj., (1) foolish, easy going; and (2) choice, exquisite: originally effeminate. As subs. (*softy*, or *soft-horn*), a simpleton; *softish* (or *soft-headed*), weak-minded, silly (1536). Phrases: *Soft-hearted*, yielding, piteous, tender; *soft-food*, pap; *soft*, hash; *soft is your horn*, you make a mistake; *a soft thing*, (1) an easy or pleasant task, and (2) a facile simpleton; *soft down on*, in love with. See Hard-shell, Hard-tack, Sawder, Snap, Soap, Spots, Tack.

Soft-ball (Royal Military Academy). Tennis.

Soft-horn. An ass, whether quadruped or biped.

Soft-horse. A horse lacking stamina.

Softling. A voluptuary (1576).

Soft-soap. See Soap.

Soft-shell. In U.S. Politics: (*a*) a member or an adherent of that one of the two factions into which in 1852 and succeeding years the Democratic party in the state of New York was divided which was less favourable to the extension of slavery; (*b*) a member of the pro-slavery wing of the Democratic party in Missouri about 1850 (*Century*); see Hard shell: also *Softs* and *Soft-shell democrats*.

Soft-tack (or **tommy**). Bread: as distinguished from biscuit, which is 'ship's bread.'

Sog. 1. A sovereign; 20s.: see Rhino. 2. A swoon, lethargy.

Soger (**Sojer**, or **Sodger**). 1. A Soldier. 2. The worst term of reproach that can be applied to a sailor. It signifies a *skulk*, a *shirk*—one who is always trying to get clear of work, and is out of the way, or hanging back, when duty is to be done. Marine is applied more particularly to a man ignorant and clumsy about seaman's work—a green-horn, a land-lubber. To make a sailor shoulder a hand-spike, and walk fore and aft the deck, like a sentry, is the most ignominious punishment that could be put on him; inflicted upon an able seaman in a vessel of war, would break his spirit down more than a flogging (*Dana*). 3 (Winchester). A cross marked on the margin of an exercise: see Percher.

Soiled-dove. A prostitute.

Solace. A penalty, a fine (*Moxon*, 1683).

Sold. See Sell.

Soldier. 1. A red herring. 2. A boiled lobster. As verb, (1) to make temporary use of (another man's horse): thus a man wanting a mount catches the first horse he can, rides it to his destination, and then lets it go (*Century*); (2) to bully, to hector (*Halliwell*); (3) to do routine work, as cleaning accoutrements, fatigue duty, anything irksome in a soldier's life. Phrases and combinations: *Soldier's bottle*, a large bottle; *soldier's mawnd*, (1) a counterfeit sore or wound in the left arm (*B. E.*), and (2) a pretended soldier, begging with a counterfeit wound, which he pretends to have received at some famous siege or battle (*Grose*); *soldier's pomatum*, a piece of tallow; *soldier's thigh*, an empty pocket; *a soldier's wind*, a fair wind either way, consequently, a beam wind; *old soldier*, (1) an empty bottle: cf. Marine; and (2) see Old Soldier. See Come, and Fresh-water Soldier.

Solemncholy. Seriousness, gravity: cf. melancholy.

Sole-slogger. A shoemaker.

Sol-fa. A parish clerk (1785).

Solid. United, unanimous. Thus *a solid vote*, a unanimous vote; *the solid South*, the Southern States during reconstruction: from their uniform support of the Democratic party; *a solid party*, a united party: *to make oneself solid with*, to come to an agreement with, etc.

Solitary. Solitary confinement.

Solo (Winchester). A solitary walk, without a socius (q.v.).

Solomon (or **Sollomon**). See Salmon.

Some. Somewhat, a certain amount, a great deal: cf. Few, and see Pumpkin (1598).

Something. See Damp and Short.

Somewheres. Somewhere, about: e.g. Somewheres along of fifty quid.

Son. In combination, thus—*Son of Apollo*, a scholar; *son of a bitch* (*sow*, *whore*, etc.), a term of violent abuse; *son of a bachelor*, a bastard; *son of a gun* (or *sea-cook*), (1) a soldier's bastard, and (2) a term of contempt; *son of Mars*, a soldier; *son of Mercury*, a wit; *son of parchment*, a lawyer; *son of prattlement*, an advocate; *son* *of wax*, a cobbler; *every mother's son*, everybody; *son of Venus*, a wencher.

Song. A trifle, a nominal sum or price: also an *old* (or *mere*) *song* (1598). *To change one's song* (or *sing another song*), to tell a different tale: see Sing. His morning and evening song do not agree, He tells another yarn at night to the one in the morning.

Sonkey. A clumsy fellow, a lout: also *sonk*, *sonky*, and *sonkie*.

Sonnie (Sonny, or Sonnikin). An affectionate or familiar address: with no necessary reference to age or relationship: also *sonniwax* or *sonnywax* (1542).

Sool. 1. To excite a dog, to set him on. 2. To worry, as a dog a cat.

Soot-bag. A reticule.

Sooterkin. 1. A kind of false birth fabled to be produced by Dutch women from sitting over their stoves (*Johnson*). 2. An abortive proposal or scheme.

Sop. 1. A bribe; e.g. *a sop to Cerberus*, a doorkeeper's or porter's tip (q.v.) (1513). 2. A small piece, a thing or matter of little value (1362). 3. A simpleton, a milk-sop. *A sop in the pan*, (1) a dainty; and (2) a favour (1621).

Soph (Cambridge Univ.). A sophister: in U.S.A. sophomore; a student beyond his first year (*Grose*). The terms are 1st year, Freshman; 2nd year, Junior Soph; 3rd year, Senior Soph. See Harry Soph (1719).

Sore-fist. A bad workman: cf. to write a poor hand, to sew badly.

Sore Leg. 1. German sausage. 2. A plum-pudding; spotted-dog (q.v.).

Sorrel-pate. A red-haired man, carrots (q.v.).

Sorrowful Tale. Three months in jail.

Sorry. Vile, mean, worthless: a sorry fellow or hussy, a worthless man or woman (*Grose*). As intj., I beg your pardon.

Sort. *Sort* (kind) in its colloquial usages is frequently elliptical. Thus, *That's your sort* (of method, fancy, thing, etc.); *after a sort* (of fashion—well enough of its kind); *a good* (or *bad*) *sort* (of man, fellow, lot, etc.). *Out of sorts*, (1) seedy (q.v.); (2) cross, depressed; and (3) old, destitute. *Sorter*, sort of.

So-so. See So.

Soss, Sossle, etc. See Sozzle.

Sotweed. Tobacco (1704). Hence *sotweed-dealer* and *sotweed-planter*.

Sou. *Not a sou* (or *souse*), nothing (1761).

Soul. *Soul in soak*, drunk: see Screwed.

Soul-case. The body.

Soul-driver. A parson (*B. E.*).

Sound. To examine, to try (q.v.), to extract information artfully, to pump (q.v.). *To sound a cly*, to try a pocket (1597). *Sound as a roach* (*trout*, *bell*, etc.), perfectly sound. [*Roche*, rock] (1697). See Goose.

Soup. 1. A brief for the defence given to a junior in court by the Clerk of the Peace or Arraigns. 2. Bad ink. 3. Melted plate: also *white soup*: whence *soup-shop*, a fence (q.v.); melting pots are kept going, no money passing from fence to thief until identification is impossible. *In the soup*, in a pickle (or difficulty), left (q.v.).

Souper. 1. A cadger for soup-tickets. 2. A super (q.v.).

Sour. 1. Base silver money; *to plant the sour*, to utter snide (q.v.) silver; whence *sour-planter*, see Shover. 2. An acid punch: thus *whisky-sour*, whisky and lemon. As adj., crabbed, surly, ill-conditioned (*B. E.*). *To sour on*, to treat unkindly.

Sour-ale. *To mend like sour-ale in summer*, to get worse.

Sour-cudgel. A severe beating (1608).

Souse-crown. A fool.

Southerly Buster. A sudden gale from the southward: cf. Brick-fielder.

South Jeopardy. Terrors of insolvency. *Oxf. Univ. Cant* (*Grose*).

Sov. A sovereign; 20s.: see Rhino.

Sow. 1. A fat woman. 2. A general term of abuse: cf. Bitch. *Sow-child*, a girl baby; *sow's-baby*, a sucking pig (1702). Phrases and proverbs: *To grease a fat sow on the tail*, to be insensible to kindness; *to come sailing in a sow's ear* (*Ray*); *to get the right* (or *wrong*) *sow by the ear*, to make a right (or wrong) conclusion, You cannot make a silk purse of a *sow's ear*, a retort on the impossible: cf. You cannot make a horn of a pig's tail, and An ass's tail will not make a sieve. See David's sow, Hempseed, Saddle, Wild Oats.

Sow's-baby. Sixpence: see Rhino: cf. Hog, 1s.

Sow-belly. Salt-pork.

Sow-drunk. Beastly drunk: see Drunk as David's sow (1857).

Sozzle (Sossle, Soss, or **Sozz**). Generic for lumpishness. Thus (1), a lout: also *soss-belly*; (2) a heavy fall; a flop-down; (3) a muddle; a mess. As verb, (1) to flop; (2) to toss at random; and (3) to slush about. As adj. (or *soss-bellied*), ponderously fat; *soss-brangle*, a slattern; *sossly* (or *sozzly*), wet, sloppy: *sossled*, drunk (1549).

Spade. A eunuch: also spado (q.v.). Hence as verb, to unsex (1612). *To call a spade a spade*, to speak plainly, to eschew paraphrasis and ambiguity (1588). See Shovel.

Spadge (Christ's Hospital). An affected walk: formerly merely, to walk.

Spadger. A sparrow.

Spado. 1. A sword: that is *spadone* (1711). 2. An eunuch. Hence, *spadonic*, eunuchistic; and *spadonism*, eunuchry. In civil law (modern), an impotent: also (provincial), a gelding.

Spain. *A castle in Spain*, a day-dream, idle fancies. Thus *to build a castle in Spain* (*in the air*, *the skies*, or *to build a castle*), to indulge in visionary projects or schemes, to romance: Fr., *château en Espagne*, *en Asie*, *en Albanie*, etc. (1400).

Spalpeen. A generic term of contempt (1809).

Span- (**Spandy-** or **Spanfire-**) **new.** See Spick-and-span.

Spange (Royal Military Academy). New, dressy, smart (q.v.): e.g. a spange uniform, a new outfit; or You look spange enough.

Spangle. A seven-shilling piece: see Rhino.

Spangle-shaker (or **guts**). A harlequin.

Spaniel. A parasite: as adj., servile: as verb, to fawn, to be obsequious (1601).

Spanish. *Spanish*, like Dutch (q.v.), Irish (q.v.), etc., contributes to colloquial English. Thus *Spanish*, (1) money, spec. ready money: in America silver only; and (2) fair words and compliments. *Spanish-fagot*, the sun; *Spanish-pike*, a needle; *Spanish-plague*, building (*Ray*); *Spanish-trumpeter* (or *King of Spain's trumpeter*, i.e. Don Key), a braying ass; *to walk Spanish*, to be seized by the scruff and the seat, and thus forced along: hence, to act under compulsion; *to ride the Spanish mare*, a punishment in which the offender was set astride a beam with the guys loosed, when the vessel was in a seaway.

Spank. A sounding thwack: spec. on the buttocks: also *spanker*. As verb, (1) to strike, whence *spanking*, a beating (1772); (2) to run neatly along between a trot and a gallop (*Grose*), to move quickly and briskly: usually with along; (3) to break, to smash: e.g. *to spank the glaze*, to break a pane in a shop window and to snatch some article, having tied the shop door to prevent pursuit; also *on the spank*. *Spanking*, (1) big, jolly, sprightly: as a spanking lass; (2) large, big, stunning (q.v.), whopping (q.v.); and (3) dashing, free-going; *spanker*, anything of exceptional size, pace, figure, merit: cf. Skelp, He's a spanker to go; *spanky*, showy, smart (q.v.).

Spanker. 1. In pl., money: generic: spec. gold. 2. A fore-and-aft gaff sail on the mizzen mast of a ship or barque: hence *spanking*, sailing swiftly along with the wind so quartered as to keep the spankers full. See Spank.

Spark. 1. A dandy: masc. or fem.: also *sparkle*. 2. A lover, and spec. (American) a sweetheart. 3. A man or woman of pluck and parts: as verb, to court, to gallant, e.g. to spark a girl or to spark a girl home; *sparkish*, (1) spirited: also *sparkful* and *sparky*; and (2) showy, dandified, gay (1362). 4. A diamond: also *sparkle*; *spark-prop*, a diamond breast-pin. As verb, to watch closely. *A spark in the throat*, chronic thirst (1785).

Sparkler. Anybody or anything brilliant, gay, or lively: see Spark (1713).

Sparrow. *Mumbling a sparrow*, A cruel sport practised at wakes and fairs: a booby, hands tied behind, has the wing of a cock-sparrow put into his mouth; without any other assistance than the motion of his lips he is to get the sparrow's head into his mouth; the bird defends itself surprisingly, pecking the mumbler till his lips are covered with blood and he is obliged to desist; to prevent the bird getting away he is fastened to the booby's coat (*Grose*).

Sparrowgrass (or **Sparagras**). Asparagus: polite in the 18th century; now vulgar (1649).

Sparrow-mouth. One whose mouth cannot be enlarged without removing the ears; such persons do not hold their mouths by lease but have it from (y)ear to (y)ear (*Grose*); as adj., wide-mouthed (1621).

Sparrow-tail. A dress-coat; a swallow-tail, clawhammer (q.v.).

Spat. 1. A slap, a light blow, and 2. a petty quarrel, a snarling-match; also as verb, (1) to slap; and (2) to dispute, to quarrel: A low word (*Webster*).

Spatch-cock. A fowl killed, dressed, and broiled at short notice (*Grose*); sudden death (West Indies). As verb, to insert hurriedly, to sandwich (q.v.).

Speak. To steal: also *to speak with*: see Prig. *To make a good* (or *rum*) *speak*, to make a good (or bad) haul; *spoken to*, robbed: also *spoke to on the screw, crack, sneak, hoist, big*, etc. (see the nouns). Phrases: *Spoken to* (thieves'), dying; *to speak to*, to admonish; *to speak at the mouth*, to talk freely, to say one's say; *to speak daggers* (see Dagger); ale that would make a cat *speak*, strong ale; *speaks the parrot*, a taunting reply; *to speak* (or *talk*) *big*, to boast, to talk loudly; *to speak fair*, to use soft words (1581).

Spearmen. *The Delhi Spearmen*, the 9th Lancers.

Spec. 1. Speculation: hence *on spec.*, on chance, on the hazard of the die (1834). 2. In pl., spectacles (1837). 3. A lottery. 4. (Winchester College). Anything enjoyable or pleasant, a good thing: *on spec*, in consequence. 5. (Edinburgh Advocates'). The Speculative Society.

Special. 1. A paramour, male or female: cf. Particular (1350). 2. By ellipsis a particular person or thing: e.g. a special train, special Scotch, a special constable, a special edition, etc.

Speck. In pl., damaged oranges.

Specklebelly. A dissenter.

Speech. Information: spec. a tip (q.v.): e.g. *to give* (or *get*) *the speech*: Fr., *tuyau*.

Speecher (Harrow). Speech-day: usually the first Thursday in July. *The Speecher*, The Speech-room built 1871.

Speedyman (Winchester: obsolete). The herald of news of a vacancy at New College, Oxford. Whence *sped to New College*, elected to a scholarship.

Speel. To decamp. *To speel the drum*, to make off to the highway.

Speeler. A gambler: also *speel*.

Speg (Winchester: obsolete). Smart.

Spell. 1. A turn of work. 2. A turn of rest. 3. A period of love, weather, adventure, sickness, luck, temper, and so forth. As verb, (1) to relieve; (2) to rest (1586); (3) to advertise: *spelt in the lear*, wanted (q.v.). *To spell for* (or *at*), to desire, to hanker after: indirectly (1821). See Baker, Backward, Spellken.

Spell-binder. A speaker who holds (or thinks he holds) his hearers spell-bound.

Spell-ken (**Spell**, or **Speelken**). A theatre (1800).

Spend. *To spend the mouth*, to give voice, to talk, and (of dogs) to bark (1593).

Spend-all. A prodigal, a spendthrift (1591).

Spess (Felsted School). A specimen.

Spew. *To spew oakum*, a ship spews oakum when the seams start.

Spew Alley. The throat: see Gutter Lane.

Sphere. A football.

Spice. To rob: hence, *the spice* (or *high toby spice*), highway robbery; *spicer* (or *spice-gloak*), a footpad (1800).

Spick-and-span new. Quite fresh, brand new: as a spike and chip from the workman's hands. Also, *spick-and-span, spick-span new, span-new*, and *span-fire new*. Also *spick-and-span* (*span*, or *spandy*), quite, wholly (1369).

Spicy. 1. Racy, full-flavoured (q.v.); nutty (q.v.). 2. Showy, handsome, smart (q.v.) (1844).

Spiddock-pot Legs. Large awkward legs.

Spider. Claret and lemonade. *To swallow a spider*, to go bankrupt (1670).

Spider-catcher. A spindle of a man (*B. E.*): also (*Halliwell*), a monkey.

Spider-shanked. Long legged. Also *spider-shanks*, a lanky fellow: see Lamp-post (1827).

Spider-web. The subtilties of logic, which, though artificial to sight were yet of no use (*B. E.*).

Spidireen. An imaginary vessel figuring in an unwilling reply: What ship do you belong to? The spidireen frigate, with nine decks, and ne'er a bottom.

Spiel. See Spieler.

Spierize (Oxf. Univ. Cant). To have one's hair cut and dressed. [Spiers was a barber in The High.]

Spiffing. 1. A generic intensitive: of pleasure or admiration: used for anything or anybody out of the common: e.g. a spiffing time or girl; awfully spiff; How spiff you look; How are you? Pretty spiff; and so forth: also *spiff*, a swell. 2. In pl., a percentage on the sale of old or dead stock.

Spiffed. Drunk: see Screwed.

Spiflicate (**Spifflicate**, or **Smifligate**). To confound, to crush, to smash (q.v.). Hence *spiflication*, confusion, annihilation (1783).

Spigot-sucker. A tippler, pot-companion: see Lushington and Knight.

Spike. A casual ward. *Spike-ranger*, a tramper from ward to ward (1866).

Spike-park. The Queen's Bench prison.

Spill. 1. A small fee, reward, or gift of money (*B. E.*). 2. A fall, a tumble: as verb, to throw, to fall, to overturn, to betray. *To spill stock*, to throw great quantities upon the market, sometimes from necessity but often in order to break the price.

Spill-good. A spendthrift (*Minsheu*).

Spillsbury. Failure: e.g. to come by Spillsbury: cf. Bedfordshire, Peckham, Clapham, etc. (1692).

Spill-time. An idler (1362).

Spilt-milk. *To cry over spilt-milk*, to lament what is past recovery or mending.

Spin. A brisk run, a smart canter, a spurt: as verb, to go quickly: usually *to spin along* (1854). As verb, (Royal Military Academy), to reject, to plough; to pluck (q.v.): also *to get a spin* (1868). Phrases: *To spin a yarn*, to tell a story: originally nautical; *to spin street-yarn*, to gad, to loaf (q.v.); *to spin a fair thread*, to busy oneself about trifles; *to spin out*, to prolong unreasonably; She'd rather kiss than spin (of a wanton) (1704).

Spindle-legs (or **shanks**). 1. Long, thin legs. 2. A tall, slender person, a lamp-post (q.v.). Also as adj., (or *spindly*), thin, slim (1570).

Spink (Royal Military Academy). Milk: new or condensed.

Spinning (or **Spin-**) **house.** A house of correction or Bridewell for loose women. [The task work consisted of spinning or beating hemp.] Hence *spinster*, a harlot. [The term is still applied to the prison for disorderly women attached to the Vice-Chancellor's Court at the University of Cambridge.] (1622).

Spinniken. St. Giles' Workhouse, large house (q.v.).

Spinsrap. A parsnip.

Spintext. A parson; spec. a prosy preacher (1693).

Spirit. *To spirit away*, to kidnap (*B. E.*). Hence *spiriter*, an abductor (1675).

Spiritual flesh-broker. A parson.

Spit. 1. A speaking likeness; orig. as like as if he'd spit it; usually in phrase the spit of (some one named): Fr., *C'est son père tout craché* (1602). 2. A sword (1613). 3. An obelisk or dagger, †: used as a reference mark (1656). As verb, to show signs of rain: also as subs., drops of rain (1818). Phrases: *A spit and a stride*, a very short distance; *to spit at one*, to insult; *to spit it out*, to speak plainly; *to spit white* (*white broth*, or *sixpences*), to expectorate from a dry but healthy mouth: Fr., *cracher des pièces de dix sous*.

Spitalfields Breakfast. No breakfast at all, a tight necktie and a short pipe: cf. Irishman's dinner, Duke Humphrey, etc.

Spit-curl. A curl lying flat on the temple, a soap-curl (q.v.): see Aggeravators.

Spite (Winchester). The word in Wykehamical usage generally connoted the frame of mind rather than the acts in which it finds expression. But the phrase *to spite Gabell*, describes the act popularly known as cutting off your nose to spite your face (*Wrench*).

Spitfire. A hot tempered person: see Furioso (1623).

Spit-frog. A small sword (1630).

Spithead-nightingale. A bo'sun or bo'sun's mate.

Spitter. Slight rain: see Spit.

Spittle (or **Spital**). A hospital or lazar-house. Hence, *spittle-whore* (or *sinner*), a foundered harlot; a *spittle-rogue* (or *man*), (1) a gaol-bird; and (2) a diseased outcast: whence a general term of contempt (1580).

Spittoon. An utensil mostly used in public-houses for the reception of smokers' expectorations (*Bee*).

Splash. 1. Face powder, slap (q.v.): as verb, to make up (q.v.). 2. Display, exertion, effort: hence, *splash up*, in good style, quick time, bang-up (q.v.).

Splashers. The Wiltshire Regiment, late The 62nd Foot.

Splathers. *Hold your splathers*, Hold your tongue! *Splathever*, a braggart, a great talker.

Splatterdash. A bustle, an uproar.

Splatter-face. A broad-faced man or woman: also as adj. (1861).

Splay-foot. A person with flat, awkward, or spreading feet: *splay-footed*, awkward in gait, heavy-footed. *Splay-mouth*, (1) a large, wide, grinning mouth; hence (2) a grimace (1588).

Splendiferous. Splendid. Also *splendacious*, *splendidous*; and *splendidious* (1538).

Splice. 1. To marry: of the agent; *to be spliced*, to get married: also *splice*, a wife (1751). 2. To throw, to fling. *To splice the main brace*, to drink: orig. to serve out extra grog. *With main brace well spliced*, drunk: see Screwed.

Split. 1. A detective, police spy: also as verb, (or *to turn split*), to inform, to nose, to snitch (q.v.): see Nark. 2. In pl., a sitting posture, the legs extended laterally on the ground: whence *well-split up*, long in limb; *split-up*, a lanky fellow: see Lamp-post (1851). 3. (*a*) A small bottle of aerated water; also as adv., divided: e.g. two Scotches and a soda (or small soda) split; (*b*) a half glass of spirits; a dram. Phrases: *To make all split*, to make a disturbance or commotion; *to split along* (or *go like split*), (1) to stride, to run quickly; and (2) to move or work with vigour; *at full split*, as hard as may be; *to split one's sides* (or *to split*), to burst with laughter; *to split the ears*, to deafen; *to split hairs*, to cavil about trifles, to be over-nice in argument: hence *hair-splitter* (or *splitter*), a precisian (q.v.), the reverse of lumper (q.v.); *to split on a rock*, to fail, to come to grief; *to split on one* (or *to split*), to betray confidence; *to split fair*, to tell the truth; *to split out* (thieves'), to separate; *to split with one*, to quarrel; *Split my windpipe!* a foolish kind of a curse among the beaux (*B. E.*, 1692).

Split-asunder. A costermonger.

Split-cause. A lawyer: also *splitter of causes.*

Split-fig. A grocer.

Split foot (or **Old Split Foot**). The Devil.

Splitting. Extreme, severe: e.g. a *splitting* (very quick) *pace*, a *splitting* (painfully throbbing) *head-ache*, etc.

Splodger. A lout. *Slodgy*, awkward (in gait), coarse (in complexion).

Splosh. Money: generic: see Rhino. As adv., Plump.

Splurge. Generic for effort and effect. As verb, to make the most and do the showiest; *splurgy*, on it (q.v.).

Spoffle. To fuss, to bustle. *Spoffish* (or *spoffy*), fussy, bustling, smart. Also *spoffy*, a busybody (1836).

Spoffskins. A prostitute.

Spoil. In addition to the sense (now accepted) given by Grose (to mar, to place obstacles in the way) there are colloq. usages as follows:—*To spoil for*, to be eager for: as spoiling for a fight, and spoiling to be invited; *to spoil one's shape*, to be got with child; *to spoil one's mouth*, to damage the face. Also in sarcastic combination, *spoil-bread*, a baker; *spoil-broth*, a cook; *spoil-iron*, a smith; *spoil-paper*, a scribbler; *spoil-pudding*, a long-winded preacher; *spoil-sport*, an unfriendly or dispirited associate or intruder: hence *to spoil sport*, (1) to dishearten, and (2) to prevent; *spoil-trade*, an unscrupulous competitor; *spoil-temper*, an exacting superior (1280).

Spoke. *To put a spoke in one's wheel* (or *cart*), to do an ill turn. Occasionally (by an unwarrantable inversion), to assist (1661).

Spoke-box. The mouth.

Spondulics (**Spondoolicks**, or **Spondulacks**). Money: generic: originally (*Century*) paper money (1863).

Sponge (**Sponger**, or **Spunge**). 1. A parasite. 2. A thirsty follow (*B. E.*). As verb, to take kicks and lick dishes for a living. Whence *sponging*, (1) cadging (q.v.); and (2) extortion: e.g. a *sponging-house*, a bailiff's pound in which arrested debtors were squeezed (q.v.) pending transfer to a regular prison (1598). *To throw up the sponge*, to acknowledge defeat.

Sponge-wit. A plagiarist.

Spoof. Deception, a swindle: also the *spoof-game*: also as verb (or *to play spoof*).

Spook. A ghost. Whence *spookish* (or *spooky*), ghostly.

Spoon. 1. A simpleton: spec. an absurd whole-hearted lover: also *spooney*; *a rank spoon*, a prating shallow fellow (*Vaux*). 2. Calf-love: e.g. a *case of spoons*; *to come the spoon*, or *be spoons on*, to make love openly, innocently, and ridiculously: also *spoony*, stupidly fond; *spooniness*, foolish fondness (1837). As verb, to hit with a slack and horizontal bat, causing the ball to rise in the air. Phrases, *To stick one's spoon in the wall*, to die; see Hop the twig; *to fill the mouth with empty spoons*, to go hungry; *to take with a big* (or *little*) *spoon*, to take in large (or small) quantities: see Silver Spoon, and Wooden Spoon.

Spoonage. Liquid food, pap (q.v.) (1586).

Spoony Drunk. Sentimentally drunk: see Screwed.

Spoops (or **Spoopsie**). A simpleton. *Spoopy*, silly, foolish.

Sport. 1. A professional sportsman: a pugilist, book-maker, jockey, etc.: also *sporting-man*; whence *sporting-house*, a public-house frequented by sportsmen. 2. Mischief, horseplay. As verb, generic for display: the word . . . was in great vogue in . . . 1783 and 1784 (*Grose*); now-a-days still general, but spec. a public school and university usage: thus *to sport* (or *baulk*) a report, to publish far and wide; *to sport* (drive) a gig; *to sport* (wear) *new togs*; *to sport ivory*, to grin; *to sport* (exhibit) *temper*; *to sport oak* (*timber*, or *to sport in*), to deny oneself to callers by closing an outer door: see Oak; *to sport an ægrotat* (see Ægrotat); *to sport off*, to do with ease; *to sport* (provide) *a dinner*; *to sport literature*, to write a book; *to sport* (spend) *money*, *one's salary*, etc.; *to sport* (express) *an opinion*; *to sport a nescio* (see Nescio); *to sport silk* (racing), to ride a race; *to sport* (indulge or engage in) *smoking*, *walking*, etc. Also (Winchester), *a sporting action*, an affected manner, gesture, or gait, or a betrayal of emotion. *Sportings* (Charterhouse), clothes worn at the exeat (q.v.).

Spot. 1. Shares (or goods) ready for delivery: that is on the spot. 2. A dollar: e.g. *five-spot*, five dollars, $5. As verb, (1) to recognise, to take note of, to discover; (2) to detect, to come upon: hence *spotter*, a detective: Fr., *indicateur*; *spotted*, known to the police; and (3) o tpick out, to choose, to chance upon: e.g. *to spot the winner*. 4. To gamble. Phrases and combinations: *A soft spot*, an easy, comfortable, or desirable berth, thing, or circumstance: see Hunt; *to knock spots out of* (see Knock); *on* (or *off*) *the spot*, alert, dead certain; *in spots*, by snatches; *to have a vacant spot*, to be crazy.

Spotted-dog. 1. A plum or currant dumpling: *spotted donkey*, plum pudding; and 2. (military) a sausage or saveloy.

Spotted Mystery. Tinned beef.

Spout. 1. A pawnbroker's shoot or lift from shop to store-room. 2. A pawnbroker's: as verb, to pawn; *up the spout* (or *spouted*), pawned: in America gone where the woodbine (q.v.) twineth: also *up the spout*, imprisoned, in hospital (*Bee*). English synonyms: To blue, to bullock's-horn (rhyming), to flue (or put up the flue), to lay up in lavender, to lug, to lumber, to moskeneer, (q.v.), to put away, to send to uncle's, to soak, to spout, to sweat, to vamp, to warehouse. As verb, to talk, speechify, or declaim for effect. Hence *spouter*, (1) a mouthing talker; (2) a fourth-rate speaker or actor. *To spout billy*, to earn a living by reciting Shakespeare in tap-rooms; *spouting-club*, a rehearsal club (*Grose*); *in great spout*, noisy, in high spirits; *to spout ink*, to write: cf. Sling ink (1599).

Spouter. A whaling vessel.

Sprat. 1. Sixpence, 6d.: see Rhino. 2. A sweetheart: cf. Bloater, Duck, Pippin, etc. 3. In pl., furniture, effects: cf. Marbles, Sticks, etc. 4. An undersized or mean-looking man or boy, a scarecrow (q.v.): also Jack Sprat (q.v.) (1598).

Spread. 1. A meal, a feast (1827). 2. Butter: cf. Scrape. 3. An umbrella (*Grose*). 4. A lady's shawl. 5. A saddle (1798). 6. An option, a straddle (q.v.). *To spread oneself*, to push, to come out strong, to swagger (q.v.) (1832).

Spread-eagle. 1. A posture: arms (wings, or fins) and legs extended: e.g. a soldier lashed to the halberts (*Grose*), or a sailor to the rigging; a fowl split down the back for broiling; fish split and laid out to dry; and a figure in skating imitating the heraldic eagle displayed [i.e. with wings and legs extended on each side of the body]: as verb, (*a*) to tie up for punishment: (*b*) to prepare poultry or fish for broiling or drying; and (*c*) in racing, to scatter the field (q.v.). (1701). 2. This term [spread eagle] is frequently used among stock speculators: a broker, satisfied with small profits . . . sells say one hundred shares Erie Railroad stock at fifty-eight, buyer sixty days, and at the same time buys the same quantity at fifty-seven, seller sixty-days: the difference is . . . one per cent, which would be so much profit, without any outlay of capital, provided both contracts run their full time; having sold buyer's option sixty days, and bought sellers' option sixty days, the time is equal, but . . . he does not control the option in either case; the buyer can call when he pleases, which will compel the spread-eagle operator to deliver; and the seller way deliver any time, which would compel the broker to receive. As adj., bombastic; espec. in reference to national vanity: whence *spread-eagleism*, patriotic brag: as verb, to play the good American till all is split (1858).

Spree. A frolic. As verb, to carouse; *spreeish*, drunkish: see Screwed (1821). As adj. (Winchester) (1) conceited, stuck-up: of persons; (2) smart, stylish, befitting a Wykehamist. *Spree-mess*, 'at the end of the half-year we used to have large entertainments called *spree-messes*, between Toy-time and Chapel, consisting of tea, coffee, muffins, cakes, etc., the funds for which were generally provided by fines inflicted during Toy-time for talking loud, slamming the door, coming in without whistling (to show that it was not a Master entering), improper language, etc. Sometimes a spree-mess was given by boys about to leave that Half.' (*Mansfield*).

Sprig. A young dandy, any well-groomed youngster (1637).

Spring. (1) To bring to notice suddenly; (2) to pay out, to give alms; (3) to provide; and (4) to extort. *To spring to*, to be able to accomplish, pay, give, etc., etc. (1614).

Springal (Spring, or Springer). A youth (1535).

Spring-ankle Warehouse. A prison: spec. Newgate (*Grose*).

Springers (The). The Lincolnshire Regiment, formerly The 10th Foot: the nickname is also borne by the late 62nd Foot.

Springer-up. A slop-tailor. *Sprung-up clothes*, garments blown together.

Sprinkle. To christen.

Sprout. 1. A course of severe discipline; a birching. Also 2. (Yale), a department of study — classics, mathematics, etc.; and 3. (in pl.,) a bunch of twigs. *A bunch of sprouts*, (1) the closed fist, and (2) the chambers of a revolver.

Sprug. *To sprug up*, to dress neatly, to spruce.

Sprung. Drunk: see Screwed (1856).

Sprunt. *To sprunt up*, to bristle up, to resent suddenly.

Sprusado. A dandy (1665).

Spry. Active, lively, smart (q.v.).

Spud. 1. A potato: see Murphy: hence *spuddy*, a baked-potato man. 2. A dwarf, a short thickset person. 3. A baby's hand. 4. In pl., money: see Rhino. 5. A spade.

Spudgel. To decamp.

Spunk. 1. Mettle, spirit, pluck (*Grose*): hence *spunkie* (Scots'), (*a*) a plucky fellow, a lad of mettle; and (*b*) a will-o'-the-wisp; *spunky*, spirited; *to spunk up*, to show fight (1772). 2. In pl., matches. *Spunk-fencer*, match-vendor. Hence, a spark (1815).

Spur. To annoy. *To get the spur*, to be annoyed: see Needle.

Spy. The eye (1590).

Squab. 1. Anything fat, short, and dumpy: hence a fat sofa or well-filled bed; as adj. (*squabby, squaddy, squatty, squabbish,* etc.), fat and short, heavy, bulky, short, abrupt; as verb, to fall heavily, to plump down (1593). 2. An inexperienced person, a fledgeling: as adj., callow (q.v.), coy, quiet (1635). As verb (King Edward's School, Birmingham), to squeeze by: also *squob*: with foot on wall or desk, and back against the victim who is similarly treated on the other side, or pressed against the opposite wall; *squab-up*, to push.

Squabash. To crush. As subs., a flattening out, spifilication (q.v.) (1827).

Squabbled. Broken: of type which, after setting, has been knocked so much awry that it is a painstaking job to prevent it going to pi (q.v.).

Squaddle. To decamp.

Squail (Squailer). To throw sticks at cocks; the stick thrown. Mr. Akerman says sqwoiling is used for throwing, but the thing thrown must be some material not easily managed; with a stick sometimes made unequally heavy by being loaded with lead at one end. Squailing is often very awkwardly performed, because the thing thrown cannot be well directed; hence the word squailing is often used in ridicule of what is done awkwardly, untowardly or irregularly shaped. 'She went up the street squailing her arms about, you never saw the like': an ill shaped loaf is a squailing loaf; Brentford is a long squailing town; and, in Wiltshire, Smithfield Market would be called a squailing sort of a place (*Halliwell*). Also Squawl.

Squall. A girl (1593). As verb, to cry aloud (*B. E.*). *To look out for squalls*, to be on guard.

Squantum. 1. The imaginary name of a place a very far way back, from whence rustics and hayseeds (q.v.) come. Also, 2. a picnic.

Square. *Square*, like round (q.v.), has lived many lives in slang: in fact, it has boxed the compass, and now means the antipodes of what it meant in Shakespeare's time. 1. To disagree, to quarrel or be at variance: hence *squarer*, a quarreller; while *out of square*, (*a*) at variance, and (*b*) dishonest; *to break* (or *breed*) *squares*, to give offence; *at square*, angry, at enmity; *to square up to*, to assume a fighting attitude; *to square up and down*, to strut; *to see how squares go*, to watch events, to see how the cat will jump (1551). 2. To be entirely in agreement, to arrange, to accommodate; whence *on* (or *upon*) *the square* (or *squarely*), absolutely dependable; *all square* (or *squares*), all right; *square to* (*by the square*, or *in square*), suitable, exact, in amity or agreement; *to keep square*, to lead a straight life; also in combination: amongst others, *square backdown*, a palpable retreat; *square piece*, a decent girl; *square answer*, an unmistakable reply; *square clobber*, respectable clothes; *square crib*, a house of good repute; *square tats*, honest dice; *square drinker*, a steady toper; *square eater*, a hearty feeder; *square thing*, the truth: also *square head* (thieves'), an honest man; *square meal*, a substantial repast; *square play*, fair play; *square rigged*, well-dressed etc., etc. (1589). 3. To bribe; to pay; thus *to square matters*, to pay off: also *to square the yards* (nautical); *to square up*, to settle a bill (1835). 4. To assume a rigid or set attitude: as *to square one's shoulders*, (*a*) to stand (or sit) bolt upright, and (*b*) to show disgust; *to square one's elbows*, to give free play in driving; *to sit square*, to sit straight; *to square out*, to lay out; *to square round*, to make room. 5. Miscellaneous phrases: *To square the circle*, to achieve the impossible; How go *squares*? How do you do?; *a square peg in a round hole*, anything misplaced or incongruous; *straight down the crooked lane and all round the square*, a humorous way of setting a man on his word; *all fair and square*, above board, dependable.

Square-cap. A London apprentice (1651).

Square-face. An inferior gin made chiefly in Germany, for barter with and consumption by savages.

Squarehead. 1. Formerly a free emigrant; now 2. a German or Scandinavian. See Square.

Square-toes. An old man; a fogey (q.v.), a precisian (q.v.); also *Old Squaretoes*. Hence *square-toed*, formal, prim, testy (1771).

Squarson. A landed proprietor in holy orders: cf. Squishop, and Portmanteau - word. Whence *squarsonage*, a parsonage.

Squarum. A lapstone.

Squash. 1. A smash, a soft or flat mass; and 2. a mellay: spec. in Harrow football the Rugby scrimmage or Eton rouge; as verb, (*a*) to crush or smash: also *to go squash*, to collapse, and (*b*) to silence by word or deed; hence *squasher*, *squashiness*, and *squashy* (1726). 3. (Harrow). Racquet played with a soft india-rubber ball: the ball is also known as a *squash*.

Squat. 1. A short thick-set person; *squatty* (or *squaddy*), lumpish, dumpy. As verb (American Stock Exchange), to dishonour one's own contracts.

Squatter. 1. A settler on public land without title or license. 2. Any domiciliary usurper. 3. In Australia, a pastoral tenant of the Crown. Whence *squat*, (1) to settle on land without title: e.g. on a common, and (2) as in subs. senses 2 and 3. Derivatives are numerous: e.g. *squattage*, a squatter's station; *squattocracy* (*squatterarchy* or *squatterdom*), the world of squatters: spec. rich landowners in pastoral districts: cf. Mobocracy, Cottonocracy, Slaveocracy, etc., etc. (1829). As verb, also to move briskly or noisily through mud and water (1598).

Squattez-vous. Sit down!

Squattle. To decamp.

Squawk. 1. A harsh noise or voice: also as verb (1856). 2. A bad failure.

Squeak. A narrow escape; a close shave (q.v.). As verb, (1) to talk; (2) to betray confidence, to squeal, to peach (q.v.); hence *squeaker*, (*a*) a blab (q.v.), and (*b*) an informer; *to squeak beef*, to cry Stop thief: see Beef (1690); (3) to shirk: an obligation, debt, etc.

Squeaker. 1. A child: spec. a bye-blow (q.v.); also *squealer*. 2. In pl., organ pipes (1785). 3. A pig. 4. A young bird; a chirper, a peeper, a squealer (q.v.).

Squeal. To inform, to peach, to squeak (q.v.). Hence *squealer*, an informer: see Nark (1785).

Squealer. 1. A young pigeon. 2. A squeaker (q.v.). 3. (Wellington School). A small boy.

Squeemish. Nice (*B. E.*).

Squeeze. 1. Silk. 2. A crowd; a push (q.v.), crowding. 3. See Squeezer. As verb, (1) to gripe, or screw hard (*B. E.*): also (colloquial), (2) to extort, to coerce, to best (q.v.); as subs., (1) a hard bargain; (2) Hobson's choice; (q.v.); and (3) a rise (q.v.); whence *squeezable*, *squeezability*, etc. (1670).

Squeezer (Squeeze). 1. The neck. 2. The hangman's noose (1811). 3. In pl., playing cards with the values marked in the top left hand margins. *Squeeze*, to arrange cards so that only the indicators at the corners are visible.

Squeeze-wax. A surety (*B. E.*).

Squelch (or **Squelsh**). A hard hit, a heavy fall; espec. one under something or somebody: also *squelcher*. As verb, to crush, to squash (q.v.) (1624).

Squench. To quench (1600).

Squib. 1. A small satirical or political temporary jeu d'esprit, which, like the firework of that denomination, sparkles, bounces, stinks, and vanishes (*Grose*). 2. A brush. 3. See Puff. 4. In pl., asparagus. As verb, to lampoon.

Squibob. A finicking, fussy person: in contempt.

Squiffed. Drunk: also *squiffy*: see Screwed.

Squiggle. To evade, to wriggle, to squirm (q.v.).

Squinny-eyes. A squinting man or woman: also *squin-eyes*, *squint-a-pipes*, and *squint-a-fuego*. As adj., squinting; *to squinny* (or *squin*), to squint; and (American) to laugh, wink, or smile (1602).

Squinsy. *Hempen squinsy*, a hanging: see Hempen fever, and Ladder.

Squint. To lack: food, material, money, anything.

Squinter. In pl., the eyes: see Glim.

Squint-minded. Deceitful; crooked; with twisted vision (q.v.) (1653).

Squire. 1. A gallant; a servant (q.v.): also *squire of dames*. 2. A magistrate (New England). 3. *Squire of Alsatia*, 'a Man of Fortune, drawn in, cheated, and ruin'd by a pack of poor, lowsy, sponging, bold Fellows that liv'd (formerly) in White-Fryers; *the Squire*, a Sir Timothy Treat-all; also a Sap-pate; *squirish*, foolish, also one that pretends to Pay all Reckonings, and is not strong enough in the Pocket; *a fat Squire*, a rich fool' (*B. E.*)

Squireen. A term of contempt: Squireens are persons who, with good long leases or valuable farms, possess incomes of from three to eight hundred a year, who keep a pack of hounds, take out a commission of the peace, sometimes before they can spell . . . and almost always before they know anything of law or justice (*Edgeworth*): also (general) *squirelet* (1812).

Squiress. A squire's wife (1827).

Squirish. Foolish.

Squirm. A small obnoxious boy: cf. Squirt. As verb, to wriggle; to shudder: mentally or physically. Whence *to get a squirm on*, to bestir oneself; and *squirmy*, (*a*) crooked, deceitful; and (*b*) all overish (q.v.) (1859).

Squirrel. A harlot.

Squirt. 1. A dandified puppy (q.v.), an upstart, a cad: whence *squirtish*, dandified, self-assertive, caddish: in contempt (1844). 2. An obnoxious boy: cf. Squirm. 3. A spurt (1759). 4. In pl., (*a*) diarrhœa: cf. Squitters; and (*b*) a chemist or apothecary (1551). 5. (Harvard), a showy recitation (*Hall*). As verb, to blab (q.v.). *To squirt one's dye*, to seize an opportunity.

Squish. 1. Marmalade. 2. Weak tea (Winchester).

Squishop. A bishop who is also a landed proprietor: cf. Squarson.

Squit. A young woman not over pleasing and small (*Halliwell*).

Squitters. Looseness of the bowels: cf. Squirt.

Squo (Charterhouse). Racquets played with a soft ball: e.g. *squo-court*, *squo-ball*, etc.: cf. Squash.

Sres-wort. Trousers.

Sret-sio. Oysters.

'Stab. Establishment: e.g. *on the 'stab*, in regular work at fixed wages: as opposed to piece-work. *To stab the dice*, 'having a smooth box and small in the bottom, you drop in both your dice in such manner as you would have them sticking therein . . . the dice lying one upon another; so that, turning up the box, the dice never tumble . . . by which means you have bottoms according to the tops you put in: for example, if you put in your dice so that two fives or two fours lie a top, you have in the bottom turn'd up two twos, or two treys; so if six and an ace a top, a six and an ace at bottom' (*Cotton*). *To stab oneself and pass the dagger*, to help oneself and send the bottle round.

Stable. 1. In pl., routine duty at the stables. 2. The horses in a racing establishment. *To shut the stable door when the steed is stolen*, to set a guard after a mischief is done (1509).

Stab-rag. A tailor: also rag-stabber (q.v.).

Stab-shot. A stroke where the ball stops dead (or nearly so) on the spot occupied by the object ball.

Stacia. *Like stacia*, a term of comparison: e.g. to do it like stacia; as drunk as stacia, etc. (*Halliwell*).

Stack. A large quantity: e.g. *stacks of the ready*, plenty of money, As verb, to make cards in a pre-arranged manner for a crooked game, to pack (q.v.), to stock (q.v.).

Staff. Phrases: *To put down* (or *set up*) *one's staff*, to rest; to take up residence; *to keep staff in hand*, to retain possession; *to part with one's staff*, to get rid of one's substance; *to argue from staff to corner*, to raise a question other than that under discussion, to draw a red herring across the trail; *to have the better* (or *worse*) *end of the staff*, to get the best (or worst) of a matter: see Stick (1564).

Staff of Life. Bread. English synonyms (see also Grub), Melton (q.v.), penny-starver (penny roll), soft-tack (or tommy), tack, toke, tommy, pannum.

Stafford Court. *To be tried in Stafford Court*, to be beaten or ill-treated. Hence *Stafford law*, violence, lynch law (1598).

Staffordshire Knots (The). The 2nd Batt. of The South Staffordshire Regiment, formerly The 81st Foot. [The regimental badge is a knotted cable.]

Staff-striker. A sturdy beggar, a tramp.

Stag. 1. An informer, a snitch (q.v.): also *stagger*. 2. (Stock Exchange). An applicant for shares in new issues, who has no intention of holding, but prefers to forfeit the deposit money if unable to sell at a premium on allotment; hence, 3. any irregular outside dealer: also as verb. 4. A professional bailsman or *alibi* (*Bee*). 5. A shilling: see Rhino. 6. A romping girl. 7. A male; whence *stag-dance*, a man's dance; a bull-dance (q.v.): also *stag-party*; *stag-month*, the month of a woman's lying in; *stag-widow*, a man whose wife is in childbed. As adj., naked, in buff (q.v.). As verb, (1) to find, to watch closely, to dog (q.v.): e.g. *to stag a thief*, to look on and spoil his game; *to stag the push*, to watch the crowd; Who's that *stagging* ? Who's following; also *stagger*, a spy (1827); (2) to dun ? to beg.

Stage-fever. A craze for the boards: hence *stage-struck* (1710).

Stager (or **Old Stager**). 1. A person of experience: cf. Stager, a player; whence, 2. anything long in use or evidence.

Stagger. In pl., a drunken fit. See Stag.

Staggerer. Anything overwhelming, a poser.

Staggering Bob. 1. A newly dropped calf (*Halliwell*); and 2. meat unfit for human food because the knife has only anticipated death from accident or disease; also *Staggering Bob with his yellow pumps*.

Stag-mag. A stage manager. Also as verb, to stage manage.

Staines. *At Staines*, in pecuniary difficulties, hard up, at the Bush, alluding to the Bush Inn at that town (*Grose*).

Stairs. *The stairs without a landing*, the treadmill: see Everlasting staircase.

Stake. A booty acquired by robbery . . . ; and, if considerable, a prime stake, or a heavy stake. A person alluding to anything . . . comparatively . . . invaluable, would say, consider it a stake . . . a valuable or acceptable acquisition of any kind is emphatically called a stake, meaning a great prize (*Grose*). As verb, to provide for.

Stale. 1. A pretence, a fraud, a theft; as verb, to deceive, to rob (1033). 2. Any object of contempt, deception, or ridicule; as verb, to ridicule or abuse (1400). 3. A decoy, a stalking horse: hence ambush: as verb, to hide, to lie in wait, to ensnare (1530). 4. A common prostitute (1600). 5. An accomplice: a *stale* for a foist or pickpocket: now (also *stall*) a confederate working either before (front-stall or fore-stall) or behind (back-stall) the actual thief, to cover his movements, and assist in his escape: also *stallsman*; as verb, to screen: also *to chuck a stall*, and *to stall off*; also *to fence* (q.v.): whence *stalling-ken*, a mart for stolen goods (1567); also (*Harman*), a tippling-house; *to stall off*, to excuse plausibly, to escape wilily. *To stall one's mug*, to be off. *To stall a debt*, to forbear it. See Stall.

Stale Bear (or **Bull**). (Stock Exchange). A bear (or bull) (q.v.) who has long been short of (or has long held) stock.

Stale-drunk. A man is said to be *stale-drunk* when again in liquor before complete recovery from a previous bout: see Screwed.

Stalk (The). (Punch and Judy). The gallows: see Nubbing cheat.

Stall. 1. To install, to initiate (1567). 2. To take a part. 3. To lodge, or put up at a public house. See Stale.

Stall-whimper. A bastard: see Bye-blow.

Stam-bang. Plump down.

Stam flash. To cant (*B. E.*).

Stammel (or **Strammel**). A brawny, lusty, strapping wench (*B. E.*).

Stammer. An indictment (*Grose*).

Stamp. (1) In pl., the legs; (2) shoes; and (3) carriers (*B. E.*): also *stampers*; whence *stamp-drawers*, stockings (1620). 4. A coin of small value: spec. a halfpenny: in pl., (American), paper money; shinplaster (q.v.): also generic for money (1628). 5. In pl., type (1563). As verb, to throw dice out of the box, by striking violently against the table.

Stamp-crab. A lumpish walker, a beetle-crusher (q.v.).

Stamp-in-the-ashes. A mixed drink of some kind (1515).

Stancheous. Strong, durable (1844).

Stand (or **Standing**). 1. A thieves' station. 2. A cheap-jack's, costers', or street-vendor's pitch (q.v.): also (colloquially) a shop (q.v.), a show (q.v.). 4. A visit, a run (q.v.). 5. situation: e.g. The Astor House is a good stand for a hotel. As verb, to endure, put up with, forbear (1383). Phrases: *Stand* is frequently colloquial: thus *to stand ready at the door*, to be handy for use; *to stand to a child*, to act as sponsor; *to stand buff* (or *bluff*), to swear to, to outface, to take the consequences; *not a foot* (or *leg*) *to stand on*, at the end of one's resources, or one's repute; *to stand in*, (1) to take side (or lot) with, to share, and (2) to cost; *to stand on one's hind legs*, to show temper or take in bad part; *to stand on one's head* (*ears*, etc.), to be in good spirits; *to stand up to the rack*, to take rough and smooth; *to stand up to*, to put oneself in fighting attitude (*Bee*): whence a *stand-up fight*, a bout where the contestants manfully face each other; *to stand up with*, (1) to dance, and (2) to act as bridesmaid or groomsman; *to stand holes*, to hold to a bargain; Also see Pad, Patter, Racket, Sam, Treat, Velvet.

Stander. A sentinel (1607).

Stander-up. A thief whose speciality is robbing drunken men under pretence of helping them home.

Stand-far-off (or **Stand-further-off**). 'In my childhood there was one [cloth] called *Stand-far-off* (the embleme of Hypocrisie), which seemed pretty at competent distance, but discovered its coarseness when nearer to the eye (*Fuller*).

Stand-further. A quarrel, tiff, disagreement: e.g. There's quite a stand-further between them.

Standing. See Stand. *To take standing*, to accept or endure with composure [as one would take a high jump without a run in]: hence, without ado.

Standing-dish. Any person or thing making a frequent appearance: e.g. a sponging diner-out; a stock play, etc., etc.

Standing-patterer. A street-vendor who, taking a stand (q.v.), slings the patter to sell his wares: almost obsolete since police control under the Metropolitan Streets' Act, 1867: cf. Running Patterer.

Stand-off. Polarity, a holding off. As adj., distant, reserved; also *stand-offish*, and *stand-offishness*.

Stand-up. A meal or snack (q.v.) taken standing, a perpendicular (q.v.).

Stang. *Riding the stang*, still used in some colleges in the University of Cambridge: *to stang scholars* in Christmas being to cause them to ride on a coltstaff or pole for missing of chapel (*Ray*, 1674); a custom [is] still prevalent among the country people of Scotland: who oblige any man, who is so unmanly as to beat his wife, to ride astride on a long pole, borne by two men, through the village, as a mark of the highest infamy; this they call *riding the stang*; and the person who has been thus treated seldom recovers his honour in the opinion of his neighbours; when they cannot lay hold of the culprit himself, they put some young fellow on the *stang* or pole, who proclaims that it is not on his own account that he is thus treated, but on that of another person whom he names (*Callander*): see Skimmington. Hence *stangey*, a hen-pecked husband.

Stangey. 1. A tailor. 2. See Stang.

Star. 1. A white blaze on a horse's forehead (1845). 2. An asterisk: cf. Dagger, Spear, etc.: French stars, ⁂: a mark of division between paragraphs, etc. 3. An article introduced into a sale after the catalogue has been printed: marked in the official copy by a star. 4. A distinguished singer or player: hence *to star the provinces* (or *the halls*), to go on tour (or make the round of the music halls) as the chief attraction (or as an important turn (q.v.); *star-engagement*, an important or chief part; *star-queller*, a player whose bad business spoils the efforts of better players. As verb, to strike a window, mirror, etc., so that cracks radiate from a common centre: also (thieves'), to smash a window and rob its contents: spec. by cracking a pane in a shop-front and passing the wet thumb along, directing the crack as they please, then removing the glass, removing the goods; or by striking a dab of putty with a life-preserver: also *to star the glaze*; hence *done for a star*, convicted for window smashing; *the star-lay*, window robbery. *To bless* (or *thank*) *one's stars*, to thank for one's good fortune (1633). *My stars!* An exclamation of surprise: also *My star and garter!* (1726).

Star-bason. An impudent-looking fellow (*Halliwell*).

Starch. *To take the starch out of*, to mortify, to humiliate, to abase another's honour or dignity.

Starched. Affected, proud, stiff: also *starchy*; hence *starch*, a stiff, formal manner (1599).

Starcher. A stiff white tie.

Starchy. Drunk: see Screwed. Also see Starched.

Stare. To swagger, to bully (*Halliwell*: a cant term).

Stare-cat. A meddlesome or inquisitive neighbour.

Starf. *Starf take you!* an imprecation; the devil take you.

Star-gazer. 1. A hedge whore. 2. A horse holding its head well up while trotting (*Grose*). 3. An imaginary sail, a skyscraper (q.v.). 4. An astrologer: also an astronomer: in contempt or jest; also *star-clerk, star-conner, star-divine, star-shooter,* and *star-monger*; hence *star-craft,* astrology (1572).

Staring Quarter. An ox cheek (*Grose*).

Stark-naked. Neat (q.v.) gin: orig. *Strip-me-naked*: also as adj., unadulterated (1830).

Starling. 1. A penny: 'because in the ring or border of the peny, there was a starre stamped' (1100). 2. A marked or starred man.

Star of the Line (The). The 2nd Batt. Worcestershire Regiment, late the 36th Foot.

Star-pitch. Sleeping in the open, a doss in Hedge Square (q.v.).

Starps. In pl., sprats.

Stars-and-stripes. The United States flag: the Gridiron, the Star-spangled banner. Stars-and-Bars, the flag of the Southern Confederacy 1861-65 (1777).

Start (The). (1) London; (2) the Old Bailey (also *The Old Start*); (3) a happening: e.g. *a rum start,* an odd occurrence. Phrases: *To start in* (or *up*), to begin; *to start a vessel from the stump,* to outfit completely; *to start on,* to beat, bully, quiz, or take in hand.

Starter. 1. A question (1696). 2. A milksop, a poltroon, a white-liver (q.v.): I'm no starter, I shan't flinch (1604).

Startler. Generic for intensive surprise.

Start-up. 1. An upstart, no-one knows-who: also as adj., obscure; mushroom (1600). 2. In pl., high shoes.

Starvation. An epithet applied to Mr. Dundas, the word being, for the first time, introduced into our language by him, in a speech in 1775 in an American debate, and thenceforward became a nickname (*Mitford*); the word is noted as one of the first (*flirtation* being another) to be formed directly from a native English verb with the Latin termination—*ation*... first used or brought into notice by Henry Dundas, first Viscount Melville (*Century*). [Latham's edition (1866) of Todd's *Johnson* was the first English Dictionary to include this word.]

Starve 'em, Rob 'em, and Cheat 'em. Stroud, Rochester, and Chatham: cf. The London Smash 'em and Do-for-'em Ry., The L.C.D.R.

Stash. To desist, to set aside, to stow it: e.g. *to stash prigging,* to turn honest; *to stash one's patter,* to hold one's tongue; *to stash the lush,* to stop boozing (q.v.) (1785).

State Nicknames. The colloquial designation of various States and peoples of the American Union is as follows:—*Badger State,* Wisconsin; *Bay State,* Massachusetts; *Bayou State,* Mississippi; *Bear State,* (1) Arkansas, (2) California (*Century*), and (3) Kentucky (*Century*); *Big Bend State,* Tennessee: people, Mudheads; *Blue Hen State,* Delaware: people, Blue Hen's Chickens; *Blue Law State,* Connecticut: also *infra*; *Buck eye State,* Ohio; *Bullion State,* Missouri: people, Pukes; *Centennial State,* Colorado: people, *Centennials*; *Corncracker State,* Kentucky: people, *Corncrackers*; *Cracker State,* Georgia: people, *Crackers*; *Creole State,* Louisiana: also *infra*; *The Dark and Bloody Ground,* Kentucky: also *supra*; *Diamond State,* Delaware: also *supra*; *Empire State,* New York: also *infra*: people, *Knickerbockers*; *Empire State of the South,* Georgia: people, *Crackers*; *Excelsior State,* New York: also *supra*; *Freestone State,* Connecticut: also *supra* and *infra*; *Garden State,* Kansas, also *infra*; *Golden State,* California: also *supra*; *Gopher State,* Minnesota; *Granite State,* New Hampshire; *Green Mountain State,* Vermont; *Gulf State,* Florida: also *infra*; *Hawkeye State,* Iowa: people, *Hawkeyes*; *Hoosier State,* Indiana: people, *Hoosiers*; *Keystone State,* Pennsylvania; *Lake State,* Michigan: people, *Wolverines*; *Land of Steady Habits* Connecticut: also *supra*; *Little Rhody,* Rhode Island; *Lone Star State,* Texas: people, *Beefheads*; *Lumber State,* Maine: also *infra*; *Mother of Presidents* (or *States*), Virginia: also *infra*; *Mudcat State,* Mississippi: also *supra*; *New England of the West,* Minnesota: also *supra,* *Old Colony*, Massachusetts: also *supra*; *Old Dominion*, Virginia: also *supra*; *Old Line State*, Maryland; *Old North State*, North Carolina: also *infra*; *Palmetto State*, South Carolina; *Pan Handle State*, West Virginia; *Pelican State*, Louisiana: also *supra*; *Peninsular State*, Florida: also *supra*; *Pine Tree State*, Maine: also *supra*; *Prairie State*, Illinois: also *infra*; *Sage-hen State* (or *Silver State*), Nevada; *Squatter State*, Kansas: also *supra*; *Sucker State*, Illinois: also *supra*; *Turpentine State*. North Carolina: people, *Tarheels*: also *supra*; *Web-foot State*, Oregon; *Wolverine State*, Michigan: people, *Wolverines*; *Wooden Nutmeg State*, Connecticut: also *supra*. Also see Nature's Garb, and Elevation.

States of Independency. Frontiers of Extravagance. *Oxf. Univ. Cant* (Grose).

Stationery. Free passes, paper (q.v.).

Stave. To press onwards regardless of everything: generic for vigorous action. Hence *staving*, (1) dashing, active, and (2) great, strong, etc.—a general intensive. *Staver*, anybody or anything exceptionally active, brilliant, or dashing: a rouser (q.v.). Also *to rip* (q.v.) *and stave* (1842).

Stay. 1. A cuckold. 2. Half a meal: also *stay-belly*: also as verb (or *to stay the stomach*) (1610). As verb, to endure, last out, or persevere: as an athlete in exercise, a horse in racing, an author in public favour; hence *stayer*, anybody or anything capable of holding on for a long time; *staying power*, capacity for endurance. Phrases, etc.: *To stay put*, to remain as placed; *to stay with*, to court; *to stay out*, to remain in school; *come to stay*, said of anything meeting a public need, or with approval or favour.

Stay-at-home. A person of domestic tastes, a home-bird (q.v.); a house-dove (q.v.); as adj., fond of remaining at home; the reverse of gad-about (q.v.) (1814).

Stay-tape. A tailor: from that article and its coadjutor buckram, which formerly made no small figure in the bills of these knights of the needle (*Grose*).

Steady Habits. *The Land of Steady Habits*, Connecticut: see State Nicknames. [*Bartlett*: On account of the staid deportment and excellent morals of the people.]

Steal. See Brewer's-basket, and Stale.

Steam. Force, energy, go (q.v.).

Steam-engine (Manchester). Potato-pie (*Hotten*).

Steamer. A pipe: a *swell-steamer*, a long pipe (1783).

Steaming. A steamed pudding.

Steam-packet. A jacket.

Steel. The House of Correction, Coldbath Fields, London (1785): latterly, any prison or lock-up: originally The Bastille.

Steelbacks (The). 1. The 1st Batt. Northamptonshire Regiment, the late 48th Foot; and (2) The 1st Batt. Middlesex Regiment, the late 57th Foot.

Steel-bar. A needle. Hence *steel-bar driver* (or *flinger*), a needle-man (or woman): spec. a journeyman tailor.

Steel-boy. The kingdom of Ireland was (*c.* 1772) ravaged by various parties of banditti; who, under the name of Whiteboys, Oakboys, Steelboys, with captains at their head, killed proctors, fired stacks, houghed and maimed cattle, and took the law into their own hands (*Thackeray*).

Steel-pen Coat. A dress coat, a swallow-tail (q.v.).

Steenkirk. A Muslin neckcloth carelessly put on, from the manner in which the French officers wore their cravats when they returned from the Battle of Steenkirk, afterwards a fashion for both sexes (*B. E.*). Likewise applied to other articles of dress as wigs, buckles, etc.

Steep. A general intensive: cf. Tall. Thus *a steep* (high) *price*; *steep* (excessive) *damages*; *a steep* (a difficult or forlorn) *undertaking*; *steep* (heavy) *tax*, etc. *Too steep*, too absurd (bad, idiotic, or impudent) for acceptance. Hence, in the same sense precipitous (q.v.) Fr., *raide*.

Steeple. A woman's head-dress 14th century. Also, later, a steeple-crowned hat for either sex (1583).

Steeple-fair. The simoniacal mart: spec. St. Paul's. [Formerly church doors were plastered with all kinds of miscellaneous advertisements: see *Siquis*] (1599).

Steeple-house. A church (1690).

Steer. Steer has furnished one or two colloquialisms: thus *to steer a trick*, to take a turn at the wheel; *to steer small*, to exercise care or skill; *to give a steer*, to give a tip (q.v.).

Steerer. See Bunco-steerer.

Steering-committee. A committee of direction, wirepullers (q.v.).

Steever. See Stiver.

Stem. In pl., the legs.

Stem-winder. Anything well-finished: hence, the best of its kind. [Stem-winder, keyless watch: at the time a new and exquisite improvement.]

Step. To make off: also *to step it*. Also (military), to desert. *To step out*, to die. *Step down and out!* Shut up! Stow it! You're done!

Stephen (or **Steven**). Money: generic. *Stephen's at home*, He's got 'em (1785). *St. Stephen's loaf*, a stone.

Stepmother. A horny filament growing up the side of the finger-nail. *Stepmother's blessing*, a hang-nail.

Stepper. 1. The treadmill. The everlasting staircase (q.v.). 2. High-spirited or full-actioned horse: also *regular stepper* and *high-stepper*; hence anybody or anything more than usually good of its kind: cf. Highflyer.

Stepping-ken. Dancing rooms: espec. such as are frequented by sailors.

Stereo. Stale news: see George Horne.

Sterling. See Starling.

Stern. The backside; *stern-foremost*, backwards; *astern*, behind; *stern-uppermost*, on one's face; *stern-chase*, a pursuit. *To bring a ship down by the stern*, to over officer (1835).

Steven. See Stephen.

Stever. See Stiver.

Stew. 1. A fish-pond. 2. Worry, fuss, mental disturbance (1837). As verb (Stonyhurst College). To study: hence *stew-pot*, a hard-working student. *To stew* (*fry*, or *melt*) *in one's own* (or *another's*) *juice* (*grease*, *fat*, or *gravy*), to be left vindictively or resentfully alone (1383).

Steward. A doctor.

Stewed Quaker. See Quaker.

Stibber-gibber. 'Proctour is he that will tary long, and bring a lye, when his Maister sendeth him on his errand. This is a *stibber gibber* knaue, that doth fayne tales' (*Awdeley*).

Stibbler. A clerical probationer, a guinea-pig (q.v.) (1815).

Stichel. A term of contempt (1620).

Stick. 1. In pl., furniture, marbles (q.v.): also *sticks and stones* (1785). 2. In pl., pistols, pops (q.v.); *Stow your sticks*, hide your pistols. 3. An awkward, dull, or stupid person: in contempt: usually *poor stick*; *a rum* (or *odd*) *stick*, an oddity (1803). 4. A crowbar, a jemmy (q.v.). 5. (*a*) A candlestick; and (*b*) a candle. 6. In pl., the stumps. 7. In pl., the legs, stumps (q.v.). 8. A hard or otherwise badly printing ink-roller. 9. In pl., hurdles; hence *stick-hopper*, a hurdle-racer. 10. A mast: e.g. She has handsome sticks, She is finely sparred. 11. Hesitation, demur; hence *to stick at*, to boggle (q.v.) (1678). As verb, to kill: spec. (India) to spear wild hogs. Phrases and colloquialisms are numerous, thus *To be stuck on the deal*, to pay too much, to be swindled; *to stick on the price*, to overcharge; *to stick for drinks*, to win the toss; *to stick it up*, to get credit; *to stick up* (a bank, a train, a caravan), to rob; *to be stuck on one's lines* (theatrical), to forget; *to stick up tricks* (*points*, *runs*, *goals*, etc.), to score; *to stick up*, to take one's own part, or another's; *to stick in a pin*, to make a note of, to take heed; *to stick to*, to stand by; *to stick at*, to be scrupulous; *to stick at nothing*, to be utterly without scruple; *to stick in one's stomach* (or *gizzard*), to rankle; *to stick to*, to back through thick and thin, to follow closely; *to stick one's spoon in the wall*, to die; *to cut one's sticks*, to decamp; *to have the fiddle but not the stick*, to have the means without the sense to use them; *to go to sticks and staves* (or *noggin staves*), to go to ruin; *to beat all to sticks*, to vanquish utterly; *to stick a point*, to settle a matter; *to stick in* (cricket), to play carefully, so as to keep up the wicket; *to stick oneself up*, to assert oneself, to spread out (q.v.); *to stick to one's fingers*, to remain in possession unlawfully; *to stick out for*, to contend obstinately; *to stick and lift*, to live from hand to mouth. Also ***stuck on one's shape***, pleased with one's appearance; ***stuck in the mud***, cornered (q.v.); *stuck for the ready*, penniless; *stuck by one's pal*, deceived, deserted, done (q.v.); *stuck in one's figures* (*facts*, or *calculations*), mistaken, at a loss; *dead stuck*, completely disappointed, flabbergasted, or ruined; *stuck on a jude*, enamoured; *stuck up*, conceited, proud. Also *as cross as two sticks*, fully angered; *stick and stone*, everything: cf. Root and Branch, Stock and Block; *in quick sticks* (or *chisel*), instantly; *wrong end of the stick*, (1) the worst of a position; and (2) the false of a story. Any *stick* (or *staff*) suffices to beat the dog (*Ray*).

Sticker. 1. A pointed question, an apt and startling comment or rejoinder, an embarrassing situation, a stumper (q.v.). 2. A gaff. 3. A plodder. 4. A lingering guest (1712). 5. See *Stick-in-the-mud.* 6. An article which won't sell, a shop-keeper (q.v.). 7. An office beggar. 8. A knife.

Stick-in-the-mud. A fogey, a slowcoach (1823): also *Sticker.*

Stick flams. A pair of gloves (*B. E.*).

Sticking. In pl., coarse, bruised, inferior meat: spec. the portions damaged by the butcher's knife.

Sticking-place (or point). The point of election: usually in phrase to come to the sticking-point (1606).

Stick-in-the-ribs. Thick soup, glue (q.v.).

Stickit-minister. A disqualified candidate for holy orders: spec. a sucking-parson, who, breaking down at his first sermon, never attempts another.

Stickler. An obstinate or trifling contender, a zealot, a precisian (q.v.): also *stiffler* (1575).

Stick-slinger. A thief who robs in company with low women.

Stick-up. In pl., a high-standing collar, gills (q.v.).

Sticky. Sealing-wax.

Stiff. 1. A bill of exchange, negotiable paper, thick (q.v.): *to take* (or *give*) *the stiff*, to receive (or pay) in paper; *to do a bit of stiff*, to accept a bill. 2. Forged bank notes. 3. A corpse: also *stiff one* (1785). 4. A horse certain not to win, nor if it run, to win: also Dead-'un, Safe-'un, Stumer, etc. (q.v.); *bookmaker's stiff*, a horse nobbled at the public cost in the bookmaker's interest; also as adj. (Australian), dead certain to win; e.g. Grand Flaneur is stiff for any race for which he may enter. 5. A clandestine letter. As adj. and adv., a general intensive: cf. Steep, Tall, Wide, etc.: thus *a stiff* (a strong or long) *drink*; *a stiff* (a cramped) *style*; *a stiff* (formal) *manner*: also crusty, whence *to cut up stiff*, to turn testy; a *stiff* (strong and steady) *breeze*; *stiff* (incredible) *news*; *a stiff* (difficult) *examination*; *a stiff* (high) *price*: cf. Steep: also, a price (or a market) *stiffens*, goes higher: *to pay stiffly*, to pay expensively; *a stiff* (firm, unyielding) *market*; *a stiff upper lip*, courageous; *to cut up stiff*, to leave a large estate: cf. Warm and *supra* (1608).

Stiffler. See Stickler.

Stiff-fencer. A hawker of writing paper.

Stiff-rumped. Proud, stately (*B. E.*).

Stiffy. A well-dressed conceited boy.

Stifler. 1. The gallows: also *stifles*: see Ladder and Nubbing-cheat; hence *to nab the stifler*, to be hanged; *to queer the stifler*, to escape the rope (1818). 2. A busybody. 3. A severe blow.

Stigmatic. (1) A branded criminal; (2) any one deformed; and (3) a contemptible wretch (1598).

Stile. *To help a lame dog over a stile*, to give a hand, to assist in a difficulty, to bunk up: Fr., *sauver la mise à quelqu'un* (1546). *Let the best dog leap the stile first*, let the best take lead (*Ray*).

Still. A still-born infant. Also (American firemen's), a still alarm: i.e. an alarm given other than by the regular signal service.

Still-sow. A sly knave (1598).

Stilting. Expert thief: spec. picking pockets.

Stilton (The). The correct thing: a variant of the cheese (q.v.).

Stimble. To urinate.

Sting. To rob, to trick. That cove is fly; he has already been stung. The man is on his guard; he has been robbed before.

Sting-bum. A niggard (1696).

Stinger. Generic for anything exceptional: e.g. a heavy blow, a sharp rebuke, a vexatious occurrence, etc.

Hence *stinging*, keen, sharp, telling (1613).

Stingo. Strong liquor: spec. humming ale (q.v.).

Stingy. Covetous, close-fisted, sneaking (*B. E.*).

Stink. 1. Any disagreeable exposure: when any robbery of moment has been committed, which causes much alarm, or of which much is said in the daily papers, the family people will say there is a great stink about it (*Grose*); *to stir up a stink*, to expose; and as verb, to have a bad reputation (1647). 2. In pl., (*a*) chemistry: hence *stink-cupboard*, a close chamber for evil-smelling or obnoxious chemical experiments; and (*b*) a lecturer on chemistry; *to go out in stinks*, to take a degree in natural science (Cambridge). *To take a stink for a nosegay*, to be extremely gullible, to mistake egregiously.

Stink-a-puss. A term of contempt.

Stinkard. A mean wretch: also *stinker*: a general term of contempt. Hence *stinkardly*, mean (1596).

Stinker. 1. A black eye (1785). 2. Anything offensive: e.g. a stink-pot, a filthy person, in pl., bad coal; spec. (modern), a motor car: also *stink-car*: See Stinkard.

Stinkibus. Bad lap (q.v.), rot-gut (q.v.) (1706).

Stinking fish. *To cry stinking fish*, to run down one's own affairs, to foul one's own nest.

Stinkious. Gin: 18th century.

Stinkomalee. A name given to the then New London University by Theodore Hook. Probably because some cow-houses and dunghills stood on the original site. Some question about Trincomalee was agitated at the same time. It is still applied by the students of the old Universities, who regard it with disfavour from its admitting all denominations (*Hotten*).

Stinky. A farrier.

Stipe. A stipendiary magistrate.

Stir. 1. A prison: also *stiraben* (gipsy) (1851). 2. A crowd; a push (q.v.). *To have plenty to stir on*, to be wealthy. See stumps.

Stirrup-oil. A sound beating, a drubbing (1677).

Stir-up-Sunday. The Sunday before Advent. [The collect for the day commences: Stir up, we beseech Thee, O Lord.]

Stitch. 1. A tailor. 2. Clothing: e.g. not a dry stitch about her. Phrases: *To go through stitch*, to accomplish, to bring to a finish; *to go a good stitch*, to go a good way; *stop stitch while I put a needle in*, a proverbial phrase applied to any one when one wishes him to do anything more slowly (1611).

Stitch-back. Very strong ale, stingo (q.v.).

Stitch-louse. A tailor: also *prick-louse*.

Stive. To crowd, to make hot in a sultry atmosphere. *Stived up*, stifled (1865). As verb, to run; to move off (*Bartlett*): a low word used in the Northern States). See Stew.

Stiver (Steever, Stinner, etc.). (1) A Dutch coin value 1d.; hence (2) a small standard of value, a straw, a fig (q.v.); and (3) generic for money. Hence *stiver-cramped*, needy (1535).

Stizzle (Tonbridge School). To hurt.

Stock. 1. Cheek, impudence, brass (q.v.). As adj., very, completely: usually in combination: thus *stock-still*, entirely at rest; *stock-blind*, absolutely sightless, etc.: cf. Stone (1675). 2. Anything inert: hence, (1) a fool, a blockhead (q.v.), and (2) in contempt: spec. in compounds (mostly recognised) such as laughing-*stock*, jesting-*stock*, courting-*stock*, etc.; whence *stockish*, silly, lumpish; *stockishness*, stupidity (1593). *Stock and block*, the whole, completely; also *lock-stock-and-barrel*, and (American) *stock-and-flute*: cf. Stick-and-stone, Root-and-branch, etc. (1725). Phrases: *To take stock in*, to have faith in; *to take stock of*, to scrutinize, to size up (q.v.); *on the stocks*, in hand, in preparation (1704). See Broad, Water.

Stock-blind. Quite blind, blind as a stock or block: cf. Stone-blind (1675).

Stockdollager. See Sockdolager.

Stock Drawers. Stockings (*B. E.*).

Stock Exchange Terms. [The following list is imperfect, but it contains the better known and older colloquialisms. The Stock Exchange, admittedly a close corporation, is, in fact, so close that not only was direct official information refused, but also an appeal to be put into communication with some member interested in

Stock Exchange colloquialisms was declined. Perhaps, however, subscribers will be good enough to help to a supplementary list as an Appendix.]—*Ales*, Messrs. S. Allsopp and Sons shares; *Apes*, The Atlantic and North Eastern Railway first mortgage bonds; *Ayrshires*, Glasgow and South-Western Railway stock; *Baby Wee-Wees*, Buenos Ayres Water Works shares; *Bays*, Hudson Bay Company shares; *Berthas*, London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway stock; *Berwicks*, North Eastern Railway Ordinary stock; *Bones*, (1) North British 4 per cent. 1st Preference shares: see Bonettas, and (2) Wickens, Pease, and Company shares; *Bonetas*, North British 4 per cent. 2nd Preference shares; *Bottles*, Barrett's Brewery and Bottling Company shares; *Brums*, London and North Western Railway stock (formerly London and Birmingham Railway); *Bulgarian Atrocities*, Varna and Rustchuk Railway 3 per cent. Obligations; *Caleys*, Caledonian Railway Ordinary stock; *Cashels*, Great Southern and Western of Ireland Railway stock; *Cats*, Atlantic Cable 2nd Preference stock; *Chats*, London, Chatham, and Dover Railway stock; *Chinas*, Eastern Extension Australian and China Telegraph shares; *Claras*, Caledonian Railway Deferred and Ordinary stock; *Coffins*, The Funeral Furnishing Company shares; *Cottons*, Confederate Bonds; *Creamjugs*, Charkoff - Kremenlsching Railway bonds; *Dinahs*, Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Ordinary stock; *Dogs*, Newfoundland Land Company shares; *Doras*, South Eastern Railway Ordinary "A" stock; *Dovers*, South Eastern Railway Ordinary stock; *Ducks*, Aylesbury Dairy Company shares; *Floaters*, Exchequer bills; *Gorgonzola Hall*, The House (q.v.); *Goschens*, The 2¾ per cent. Government Stock; *Guinness's*, Guinness and Company shares; *Haddocks*, North of Scotland Railway Ordinary stock; *Kaffirs*, generic for South African Mining shares: whence *Kaffir Circus*, the South African Market in a state of excitement; *Kisses*, Hotchkiss Ordnance Company shares; *Knackers*, Harrison, Barber, and Company shares; *Leeds*, Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Ordinary stock; *Mails*, Mexican Railway shares; see Megs; *Matches*, Bryant and May's shares; *Megs*, Mexican Railway 1st Preference shares: see Mails; *Mets*, Metropolitan Railway Co. shares; *Middies*, Midland Railway Ordinary stock; *Monas*, The Isle of Man Railway shares; *Muttons*, Turkish Loans of 1865 and 1873; *New Billingsgate*, The House (q.v.); *New Plates*, English Bank of the River Plate shares: see Old Plates; *Noras*, Great Northern Railway Deferred Ordinary stock; *Nuts*, Barcelona Tramway shares; *Old Plates*, London and River Plate Bank shares; *Pigtails*, Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China shares; *Pots*, Staffordshire Railway stock; *Sarahs*, Staffordshire and Lincoln Railway Deferred stock; *Sarah's Boots*, Sierra Buttes Gold Mining Company shares; *Sardines*, Royal Sardinian Railway shares; *Sewers*, East London Railway shares; *Silvers*, India Rubber, Gutta Percha, and Telegraph Company shares; *Sunshades*, The Sunhales Extension Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway Company shares; *Terrors*, Northern Territories Co. shares; *Vestas*, Railway Investment Company Deferred stock; *Virgins*, Virginia New Funded Bonds; *Whipsticks*, Dunaberg and Witepsk Railway shares; *Westralians*, generic for Western Australian Mining shares. Also see Bear, Bucket-shop, Bull, Cocky, Fiddle, Fourteen-Hundred; Futures; Guttersnipe; Hammer; House; Jam-tart; Kerbstone-broker; Kidney; Lame-duck; Let-up; Load; Long; Omnium; Orchid; Peg; Picker-up; Put; Raid; Rush; Scalp; Scoop; Set-up; Shoot; Short; Shunter; Stag; State; Sweater; Swimming; Tapes; Tapeworm; Ten-up; Tight; Twist; Unload; Waddle; Water; Wash-sale; Wireworm.

Stocking. *In one's stockings* (or *stocking-feet*), without shoes (1809). *Long-stocking*, means in plenty, resources.

Stock-jobber (**Stock-jobbing**, etc.). 'A sharp, cunning-cheating Trade of Buying and Selling shares of Stock in East India, Guinea, and other Companies; also in the Bank, Exchequer, etc.' (*B. E.*); persons who gamble on the Stock Exchange, pretending to buy and sell public funds but only betting that they will be at a certain price at a particular time;

possessing neither stock to be sold, nor money to make good the payments, known [as] bulls, bears, and lame ducks (*Grose*).

Stockport-coach. A horse with two women riding sidewise.

Stocky. 1. Short and stout, lumpy, stumpy (q.v.) (1712). 2. Irritable, headstrong, and contrary, combined (*Halliwell*): also 3. impudent, brassy (q.v.) (1856).

Stodge. (1) Food; (2) a heavy meal; and (3) the crumb of new bread (Charterhouse). As verb, to gorge, to stuff (q.v.). Hence *stodgy* (or *stodge-full*), distended, lumpy, crammed; *stodger*, (1) a gormandiser; and (2) a penny bun. As verb (Tonbridge School), to hurt.

Stogy. Generic for coarseness: thus *stogy shoes* (or *stogies*), heavy shoes; *stogy-cigar*, a rough coarse cigar.

Stoke. To eat: spec. (1) to eat without appetite; and (2) to wolf (q.v.).

Stoll (North Country Cant). 1. To understand (*Hotten*). 2. To tipple, to booze (q.v.). *Stolled*, drunk: see Screwed.

Stomach. Generic for disposition: e.g. (*a*) spirit, compassion; (*b*) courage, temper; and (*c*) pride. Hence *a proud stomach*, a haughty disposition; *stomach-grief*, anger. As verb, (1) to endure, to encourage, (2) to resent, to disgust; *to stick in the stomach*, to remember with anger or disgust; *stomachful*, (1) stubborn, and (2) angry; *stomachy*, proud, irritable (1383).

Stomach-timber. Food: cf. Belly-timber (1820).

Stomach-worm. Hunger: the stomach-worm knaws, I am hungry (*Grose*).

Stone. In combination, quite, wholly: e.g. *stone-blind*, *stone-cold*, *stone-dead*, *stone-still*, etc.: cf. Stock (*B. E.*) (1330). Colloquialisms: *To kill two birds with one stone*, to do (or achieve) a double purpose: cf. To stop two gaps with one bush; *to leave no stone unturned*, to spare no endeavour; *to mark with a white stone*, to single out as lucky or esteemed; *to live in a glass house and yet throw stones*, to lay oneself open to blame or attack.

Stone-bee. See Bee.

Stone-broke (Stoney, or Stony-broke). Penniless, hard-up (q.v.) pebble-beached (q.v.).

Stone-doublet (jug, pitcher, or tavern). A prison: spec. Newgate (*B. E.*): also jug (q.v.) (1653).

Stone-fence. Brandy and ale, breaky-leg (q.v.).

Stone-wall. (1) Parliamentary obstruction: also as verb, (2) to obstruct, hence to obstruct business at any meeting, chiefly by long-winded speeches; and (3) to play a slow game at cricket, blocking balls rather than making runs. *Able to see as far through a stone wall as any one*, as capable of understanding—a retort on depreciation or doubt of one's abilities.

Stoobs. Boots.

Stook. A pocket-handkerchief: *stook-hauler*, a handkerchief thief.

Stool. A decoy: see *Stale* and *Stall*; also (common) *stool-pigeon*, a cardsharper's accomplice: cf. Pigeon and Rook. *To fall between two stools*, to hesitate between alternatives and lose (or be disappointed in) both (1546). *To lay the stool's foot in water*, to make much preparation to receive a guest.

Stoop. The pillory. The cull was served for macing and napped the stoop (or was set on the stoop), The swindler was convicted and pilloried; *stooping-match*, a pillory exhibition; *stoop-napper*, one under punishment: *To give the stoop*, to yield, to knock under (q.v.) (1692).

Stop. To ward off, to parry. Colloquialisms: *To stop one's mouth*, to silence: spec. with a sop or bribe; *to stop out*, to cover teeth with black wax to make them invisible; *to stop off* (or *over*), to make a break in a journey: also as subs., e.g. a *stop off*, in Philadelphia (American); *stop my vitals*, A silly curse in use among the beaux (*B. E.*); *stop thief*, beef: see Beef it (1628).

Stop-dice. A kind of false dice (*Palsgrave*) 1540.

Stop-hole Abbey. The Nickname of the chief rendezvous of the canting crew of gypsies, beggars, cheats, thieves, etc. (*B. E.*).

Stopper. A finisher (q.v.); a settler (q.v.) (1836).

Stopping Oyster. See Oyster.

Storrac. Carrots.

Storekeeper. An unsaleable

article: a shop-keeper (English), which see.

Story. A falsehood: euphemistic; whence *story-teller*, a liar (1840). *Blind story*, a pointless narrative (1699). See Upper Story.

Stoter (or **Stotor**). A violent blow: e.g. Tip him a stoter in the haltering place, Give it him under the left ear (*B. E.*). Hence a settler (q.v.).

Stoupe. To give up [*Halliwell*: A cant term].

Stout. 1. Very strong malt-drink (*B. E.*). 2. In pl., Guinness's shares. *Stout across the narrow*, full bellied, corpulent.

Stove-pipe (or **Stove-pipe-hat**). A tall hat; a chimney pot (q.v.): Fr., *tuyau de poële*.

Stow. To hold one's tongue, to keep quiet, to leave off: e.g. *Stow it!* Be quiet; *Stow your whids and plant 'em; for the Cove of the ken can cant 'em*, Take care what you say, for the master of the house understands you (1567).

Stozzle. To drink. Hence *stozzled*, drunk; see Screwed.

Strada Reale Highlanders. The 1st Batt. Gordon Highlanders, late The 75th Foot. [In 1812 the regiment was detailed for Mediterranean service, and for some time formed the Main guard of the Governor's residence in the Strada Reale, Valetta.]

Straddle. A contract in which the holder can call for (or the signatory can deliver) stock at a fixed price: a speculation covering both a put and a call (q.v.): cf. Spread-eagle. As verb, to adopt a non-committal attitude, to favour both sides, to sit on the fence (q.v.): also as subs.

Straights (The). A nest of obscure courts, alleys, and avenues, running between the bottom of St. Martin's Lane, Half Moon, and Chandos Street (1614). *Straight*, generic for honesty, has, like round (q.v.), and square (q.v.), a large colloquial vogue. Thus a *straight* (an exact) *thinker*; a *straight* (a chaste) *piece* (q.v.); a *straight* (an out-and-out) *Tory*: hence *straight-out*, thorough-going; *straight* (*neat*: also duty-paid) *whisky*; *straight* (candid) *speech*; *straight* (honest) *people*, *living*, etc.; *straight* (honestly acquired) *goods*: also of persons, square (q.v.); a *straight* (a trustworthy) *tip*, *griffin*, etc. (q.v.); a *straight* (an unsmiling) *face*; *straight* (or *straight-out*), outright, thorough; *straight up and down* (*in the straight*, or *on the straight*), plain, honest, free from crookedness of all kinds; *out of the straight*, dishonest, crooked. *In the straight*, nearing the end, within sight of a finish; orig. a racing term. *Straight as a pound of candles* (or *as a loon's leg*), as honest as may be; also as straight as the backbone of a herring, as a die, arrow, etc. (1670). *Straight!* Fact! Honest Injun!

Straight-laced. Precise, squeamish, puritanical, nice (*B. E.*).

Strain. *To strain hard*, 'To ly heavily' (*B. E.*). *To strain one's taturs*, to urinate.

Stram. A walk: spec. a society parade. As verb, to walk stiffly: also (*Halliwell*), to dash down violently, to beat.

Stramash. A disturbance, a rough and tumble (q.v.). As verb, to beat, bang, destroy (1837).

Strammel. See Strummel.

Strammer. Anything exceptional, *Stramming*, huge, great.

Stranded. Penniless, friendless.

Stranger. 1. A sovereign: formerly a guinea: see Rhino. 2. A visitor: cf. the folk-saying of a badly burning candle, or a stalk in tea: A stranger's coming.

Strangle-goose. A poulterer (1785).

Strap. 1. A barber. Strap, a barber in Smollett's *Roderick Random*, 1748.] 2. Credit: orig. credit for drink. *On strap*, on tick (q.v.); *strapped*, penniless, bankrupt (1857). As verb, to flog, to beat. Hence *strapping* (or a *dose of strap-oil* or *oil of strap'em*) a thrashing; an April fool joke is to send a lad for a penn'orth of strap oil: cf. Stirrup-oil. 3. To hang (1825). 4. To work (*Grose*). See Blackstrap.

Strappado. A form of torture: the culprit, his legs tied, was hoisted by a rope fastened to his arms behind his back, and was given a rapid descent stopped so suddenly that the jerk often dislocated the joints of arms and shoulders; this was repeated once or twice: cf. Scavenger's daughter.

Strapper. A swingeing two-handed woman (*B. E.*); anything big or bulky. *Strapping*, tall, robust, well-made (1678).

Stravag (or **Stravaig**). To tramp, to loaf, to abscond. Hence *stravaiger*, a vagabond.

Straw. 1. Generic for worthlessness. Thus, *not worth a straw*, of no appreciable value; *to care not a straw*, to care not at all; *a man* (or *face*) *of straw*, a man of no standing or substance, a sham, a fumbler; *straw-bail*, professional security; *straw-shoes* (*man* or *witness*), a perjured witness; *straw-bid*, a fictitious offer; *straw-bidder*, a buyer who cannot fulfil his contract; *straw-vote*, a snatch vote; *strawyarder* (nautical), a land-lubber playing the sailor; spec. a blackleg doing shipboard duty during a strike. 2. A long clay pipe, a churchwarden. 3. A straw hat; also *strawyard*, and (schools) *strawer*. Phrases: *In the straw*, in childbed (*Grose*); *to break a straw*, to quarrel; *to lay a straw*, to pause; *to draw* (or *pick*) *straws*, to show signs of sleep; *a pad in the straw*, anything amiss; *to throw straws against the wind* (*Coles*), to essay the impossible. Also (proverbial): A *straw* shows which way the wind blows; He gives *straw* to his dog, and bones to his ass (of one given to absurdities); To make a block of a *straw*; To stumble at a *straw* and leap over a block, etc., etc.

Strawberry. A nevus, a birthmark. *To cut down an oak, and set up a strawberry*, to waste; cf. Ital., *cavar un chiodo e piantar una caricchia* (to dig up a nail and plant a pin).

Strawberry-leaves. A dukedom: a ducal coronet is ornamented with eight strawberry-leaves.

Strawberry-preacher. A non-resident, one who visited his cure only once a year.

Strawboots. 1. The 7th Dragoon Guards; also Old Strawboots, and The Straws. 2. The 7th Hussars. [Tradition says from these regiments having been employed in quelling agricultural riots.]

Straw-chipper. A barber: cf. Strummel-faker and Nob-thatcher (1823).

Strawing. To sell straws in the street, and give away with them something that is really or fictionally forbidden to be sold, as indecent papers, political songs, and the like.

Straw-ride. A driving excursion in a strawed-down van or sleigh.

Strawyard. A night shelter, or asylum, or refuge for the destitute. See Straw.

Streak. 1. A mental peculiarity: cf. Twist, Kink, etc.: also a fit of temper: whence *streaky*, (1) irritable, short-tempered, (2) mean; (3) flabbergasted (q.v.); and (4) variable: also *streaked* (1647). 2. A run; a sequence of prosperities or adversities. As verb, to decamp swiftly, to go with a rush: also *to make streaks*, *to streak off like greased lightning*, or *to go like a streak* (1604).

Streamers. The Aurora Borealis; Northern Lights (1805).

Street. 1. The people living in a street (1594). 2. A capacity, a method, a line (q.v.): e.g. That's not in my street, I am not concerned, or That's not my way of doing, etc.: *in the same street*, (1) on (or under) the same conditions; and (2) equal with (1362). *The Street*, a centre of trade or exchange; spec. (American) Wall Street; cf. House, Lane, etc. (1612). See Grub Street, Key, Queer Street, Spin.

Street-ganger. A beggar.

Street-hound. A rough, bully, or loafer.

Street-pitcher. Any one who stands, or takes a pitch (q.v.), in the streets—vendor, mendicant, etc.

Street-walker. 1. A prostitute, working on the pavement; hence *street-walking*. 2. A jailer.

Strength. *On the strength*, on the muster roll.

Streperous. See Obstreperous.

Stretch. 1. A yard (1785). 2. A year; *three stretch*, three years' imprisonment (1877). 3. A walk; *to stretch a leg* (or *one's legs*), to walk (1653). As verb, (1) to hang, to swing (q.v.): see Ladder: *stretching* (*stretching-match*, or *stretching-bee*), a hanging (1623); (2) to exaggerate, to lie: He stretched hard, He told a whistling lie (1696); hence *stretcher*, an exaggeration, a falsehood. *On* (or *at*) *a stretch*, continuously, at one and the same time (1832). *To stretch one's legs according to the coverlet*, to adapt oneself to circumstances, to cut one's coat according to the cloth (1670). *To stretch* (or *strain*) *a point*, to exceed a limit: see Point.

Stretcher. 1. In pl., braces; hence *stretcher-fencer*, a vendor of braces.

2. A University Extension student. 3. See Stretch. 4. The piece of wood that lies across the boat whereon the waterman rests his feet (*B. E.*).

Stretch - halter (or **Hemp**). A scoundrel; one who badly needs a hanging: cf. Crack-rope, Wag-halter, Scape-gallows, etc. (1604).

Stretchy. Sleepy, languid, inclined to stretch and yawn (1872).

'Strewth. God's truth!

Stride. In pl., trousers: see Kicks. *To take in one's stride*, to do easily, and without an effort, as a hunter or a steeple-fencer takes a fence.

Stride-wide. Ale. [*Halliwell*: mentioned in Harrison's *England*, 202.]

Strike. 1. A sovereign, 20s.: see Rhino. 2. Any unscrupulous attempt to extort money or to obtain other personal advantage by initiating an attack with the intention of being bought off, as by introducing a bill into a legislature hostile to some moneyed interest, with the hope of being paid to let the matter drop (*Century*): whence *striker*, a blackmailer. As verb, generic for getting money: to steal (1567), to beg, to borrow (e.g. to strike (or spring (q.v.) a man for a quid), to get into debt (cf. *to strike a light*, to run up an alehouse score), to rob; hence *striking*, a robbery, swindle, or imposition; and *striker*, a robber with violence. *Strike me blind!* an oath. *Strike me luck* (or *lucky*), originally used in clenching a bargain: the hands were struck together, and the buyer left a luck-penny in the hands of the seller; hence an oath or ejaculation (1616). *To make a strike*, to achieve, succeed, or be lucky: at ninepins: to knock all the pins down with one ball. See Bright, Heap, Jigger, Oil, Rich, Rose.

Strike-me-blind. Rice.

Strill. A cheating lie (*Hotten*).

String. A hoax, a discredited story: hence as verb, (1) to hoax. to deceive; also *on a string* (or *line*), hoaxed, bamboozled, stuffed (q.v.); (2) to cast for play: each player to the top of the table to return to baulk; the one nearest the bottom cushion has then the choice. *In a string*, at command (1706). *To harp upon one string*, to repeat incessantly (1546). *To feel like going to heaven in a string*, to feel blindly and confusedly happy.

Stringer. 1. A libertine (1611). 2. A difficult ball to play (cricket).

Stringy-bark. A combination of fusel oil and turpentine, labelled whisky. As adj., rough, uncultered; hence mean, ne'er-do-weel: equivalent to bush (q.v.), and usually in contempt (1833).

Strip. 'To Rob or Gut a House, to unrig any Body, or to Bite them of their Money. *Strip the ken*, c. to Gut the House. *Strip the table*, c. to Winn all the Money on the Place. *Ibid*, Poor, naked: e.g. We have *stript* the Cull, We have got all the Fool's Money; The Cove's *stript*, the Rogue has not a Jack left to help himself' (*B. E.*).

Stripe. A characteristic, kind, kidney (q.v.); spec. (American), persons of the same political colour (1613). *The Stripes*, short for Stars and Stripes (q.v.).

Strip-me-naked. Gin. Also stark-naked (q.v.) (1820).

Stripped. Unadulterated, neat (q.v.).

Stripper. In pl., high cards cut wedge-shape, a little wider than the rest, so as to be easily drawn in a crooked game: cf. Concaves and convexes, Longs and shorts, etc.

Strive (Christ's Hospital). To write with care: cf. Scrub.

Stroker. A flatterer, a sycophant (1632).

Stroller. 'Strowlers, c. Vagabonds, Itinerants, Men of no settled Abode, of a Precarious Life, Wanderers of Fortune, such as, Gypsies, Beggers, Pedlers, Hawkers, Mountebanks, Fidlers, Country - Players, Rope-dancers, Juglers, Tumblers, showers of Tricks, and Raree-show-men' (*B. E.*)

Strolling-mort. 'Strowling-morts c. pretending to be Widows, sometimes Travel the Countries, making Laces upon Ewes, Beggars-tape, etc. Are, light Finger'd, Subtil, Hypocritical, Cruel, and often dangerous to meet especially when a Ruffler is with them (*B. E.*) (1567).

Strommel. 1. Straw (1567): also, *Strammel*. 2. Hair (1785): hence *to have one's strummel faked in twig*, to have it dressed in style; *strummel-faker*, a barber: cf. Strawchipper.

Strong. See Come-and Go.

Strong Man. *To play the part of the strong man*, to be whipped at the cart's tail; i.e. to push the cart and horses too (*Grose*).

Strue. Construe.

Strum. 1. A wig (1696). 2. See Strumpet. As verb, To play badly on the harpsichord or any other stringed instrument. A strummer of wire, a player on any instrument strung with wire (*Grose*).

Strumpet (or **Strum**). A harlot (*B. E.*). As adj., wanton; as verb, (1) to play the whore; and (2) to hold up to contempt as a strumpet (1593).

Strunt. Liquor (1787).

Strut-noddy. A mincing fool.

Stub. 1. A fool (1632). 2. A counterfoil of a cheque; hence *stub-book*, a book of counterfoils of cheques or other duplicate records (1886). As verb (Felsted), to kick a football about.

Stubble. *To stubble one's whids* (or *to stubble it*), to hold one's tongue (1567).

Stubbs. Nothing (1785).

Stub-faced. Pitted with small-pox (*Grose*).

Stuck. See Stick in various senses: also Pig.

Stuck-up. Conceited, purse-proud, assuming airs (dignity, or importance). Also (rare) as subs. (1830).

Study. A closet of books (*B. E.*). See Brown Study.

Stuff. 1. Belongings: furniture, goods, utensils: generic: the literary usage lingers in household-stuff, and in such a tributary sense as food-stuffs, bread-stuffs (raw material) (1360). 2. Money: generic: see Rhino (1774). 3. In contempt for anything to be swallowed: spec. medicine (1605). 4. Twaddle, fustian, trash—spoken, or written; spec. in such phrases as *Stuff!* Rubbish! *Stuff and nonsense!* What rot (q.v.)! (1696); as verb, to gammon (q.v.): to fill full of lies, prejudice, statistics, victuals, etc.; whence *stuffing* (journalists), superfluous matter, used to fill a given space, padding (q.v.) (1579). 5. Tobacco. 6. (*a*) A simpleton, a weakling; and (*b*) a respectable citizen (thieves'). 7. A Junior Counsel: as distinguished from silk (q.v.): also *stuff-gown*. As verb, to gorge, to wolf (q.v.) (1809). *To stuff a ballot-box*, to tamper with returns by the surreptitious introduction into the ballot-box of bogus voting papers; hence *stuffer*, a cheating teller.

Stuffer. See Heeler, and Stuff.

Stuffing. See Knock and Stuff.

Stuffy. 1. Angry, sulky, obstinate. 2. Close, airless, malodorous.

Stuling-ken. See Stall.

Stumble. See Truckle-bed.

Stumer. Generic for sham: spec. a worthless cheque.

Stump. 1. In pl., legs; as verb, to walk: spec. stiffly, heavily, or noisily; whence *to stir one's stumps*, to bestir oneself, to increase one's speed (1609). 2. Money: generic: also *stumpy*: see Rhino; hence as verb (or *to stump up*), to pay; *stumped* (or *put to one's stumps* poor, hard-up, put to shift; *to pay on the stump*, to disburse readily and promptly (1785). 3. A blockhead, fool. As verb, (1) to boast, to swagger (q.v.); hence *stumper*, a braggart (1748); (2) to challenge, defy, puzzle, or confound; and (in an absolute sense) to ruin; as subs., an attempt to puzzle or confound; *stumper*, a puzzler; *up a stump*, confounded, up a tree (q.v.) (1837); (3) to travel the country for the purpose of making partizan or personal speeches from stumps or other improvised platforms: originally backwoods electioneering, and spec. on one's own account: now general; frequently, but not necessarily, in a derogatory sense; also *to go on the stump* (or *to take the stump*); hence *stumper* (*stump orator* or *stump-speaker*), (*a*) an electioneer; and (*b*) a bombastic spouter (q.v.), with such derivatives as *stump-orator*, *stump-speech*, etc. (*Worcester*: A cant phrase). *Stump and rump*, completely: cf. Stock and Block, Root and Branch, Stick and Stone, etc.

Stumper (Tonbridge School). 1. Small cricket: played with a stump: at Harrow, *stumps*. 2. A wicket-keeper. 3. Anything that bowls out; a corker (q.v.). See Stump.

Stump-of-the-gutter. A term of contempt; *stumpy*, short, squat, dumpy (1764).

Stump-tail Currency. Currency issued by certain banks of doubtful credit prior to the Civil War (*Bartlett*).

Stun. To cheat, to do (q.v.). *To stun out of the regulars*, to swindle a man of his share of booty.

Stunlaw. Walnuts.

Stunner. Generic for astonishment. *Stunning*, amazing, strikingly large, good, etc.; *to put the stunners on*, to perplex, confound, astonish (1848).

Stupid (or **Stupe**). A blockhead (1762).

Sturdy-beggar. The fifth and last of the most ancient order of canters (*B. E.*); beggars that rather demand than ask (*Grose*).

Sturiben (or **Sturibin**). A prison; spec. (American) a State prison; also Stir: see Cage.

Styx (The Leys School). A urinal.

Sub. (1) A subaltern; (2) a subordinate; (3) a subscription; (4) a subject; and (5) money: see Sugar, Paint. As verb (workmen's), to draw money in advance (1838).

Sub-beau (or **Demi-beau**). A would-be-fine (*B. E.*).

Sublime Rascal. A lawyer: see Greenbag.

Sub Rosa. Secretly, confidentially.

Substance. See Shadow.

Suburb. Generic for disorder and loose-living. Thus *house in the suburbs*, a brothel; *suburb-wench* (*drab*, *sinner*, etc.), a prostitute; *suburb* (wanton) *tricks*; *suburb* (blackguard) *humour*; *suburb-justice*, money is right (1583).

Succuba. A mistress (1610).

Succubus. A thieving hanger-on, a scoundrel (1700).

Suck. 1. Wine or strong drink (*B. E.*). 2. A small draught: hence *rum-suck*, excellent tipple; *sucky*, drunkish; *suck-spigot* (*pint*, *pot*, *bottle*, or *can*), a confirmed tippler: also *sucker*; *suckerdom*, the world of topers; *suck-casa*, a public house; as verb, to tipple, to soak (q.v.). Also *to suck one's face*, to delight in drinking (*B. E.*); *suction*, booze (q.v.): hence *to live on suction*, to drink hard; *power of suction*, capacity for boozing (1585). 3. A breast pocket (1625). 4. A toady: cf. Sucker: whence *to suck up to*, to insinuate into one's good graces. 5. A cheat, a trick: also *suck-in*; *to suck in*, to take in (q.v.); and sucker (q.v.), a greenhorn, a dupe: see Sucking (1758). As verb, (1) to extract ideas or money, to pump (q.v.): e.g. *to suck one's brains*, to find out all one knows (1785); (2) (American University), to use a crib (q.v.): hence *sucker*, a pony (q.v.). *To teach one's grandma* (or *grannie*), *to suck eggs*, to instruct an expert, to talk old to one's elders: see Grandmother, and add the following analogous phrases: To *teach one's grannie* to grope her ducks, to sup sour milk, to sard, or to spin; to *teach one's father* to get children; also *Il ne faut pas apprendre aux poissons à nager*, You must not teach fish to swim. See Monkey.

Sucker. 1. A parasite, a sponger (q.v.); spec. (American political), a blackmailer; also to sponge upon: whence *to suck dry*, to exhaust: cf. proverbial saying, Children suck the mother when young, and the father when old. 2. A *sucking* pig; also any youngling: e.g. a *rabbit-sucker*, a young rabbit, etc. (1591). 3. A native of Illinois, the *Sucker State*; see State (1848). See Suck and Sucking.

Suck-fyst. A parasite (1611).

Sucking. Young, inexperienced, callow; cf. *sucker*, a greenhorn, and *sucking-dove*, a dupe or simpleton; *sucking-Nelson*, a midshipmite; *poet-sucker*, a budding poet (1680).

Suction (Winchester). Sweetmeats: cf. (prov.) Sucker and Sucket.

Suction. See Suck.

Sudden Death. 1. A decision based on skying a coin once only: see Newmarket. 2. A crumpet or Sally Lunn. 3. See Spatchcock.

Suds. *In the suds*, troubled, perplexed, angry (1617).

Suetty-Isaac. Suet pudding: also *Soapy-Isaac.*

Suffer. In mock pity, Do you suffer much ?

Sufferer. 1. A tailor. 2. A loser.

Sugar. 1. Money: generic: see Rhino: also (rhyming) *sugar-and-honey*. 2. Flattery, gammon (q.v.): also as verb, (1) to flatter, humbug (1596); (2) to malinger at the oars, to shirk while pretending to row hard. *To sugar off*, to amount to: in speaking of large sums of money.

Sugar-candy. Brandy.

Sugar-basin. See Sugar-stick.

Sugared. Astonished, perplexed, gammoned (q.v.).

Sugar-loaf. A high-crowned hat: conical like a sugar-loaf.

Sugar-stick Brigade. The Ordnance Store Corps.

Suicide. Four horses driven in a

line, harum-scarum. See Tandem, Random, Unicorn (*Grose*).

Suit. 1. In general synonymous with game; as, what suit did you give it to 'em upon? in what manner did you rob them, or upon what pretence, etc., did you defraud them? One species of imposition is said to be a prime suit, another a queer suit: a man describing the pretext he used to obtain money from another, would say, I draw'd him of a quid upon the suit of so and so, naming the ground of his application. A person having engaged with another on very advantageous terms to serve or work for him, will declare that he is upon a good suit; to use great submission and respect in asking any favour of another, is called giving it to him upon the humble suit (*Grose*). 2. A watch and seals (1785). 3. Generic for completeness: e.g. a *suit* (full head) *of hair*; *a suit* (a complete set) *of teeth*; *a suit of mourning*, two black eyes (*Grose*).

Suit-and-cloak. Good store of brandy or any agreeable liquor, let down Gutter-lane (*B. E.*).

Suit to a Hair. See Hair.

Sukey. 1. A kettle (*Bee*). 2. A common name for a general servant or slavey (q.v.): cf. Jeames, footman. *Sukey-tawdry*, a slatternly female in fine tawdry (*Grose*).

Sulky. A one-horse chaise or carriage, capable of holding but one person: called by the French a *désobligeante* (*Grose*).

Sullen. In pl., the sulks. *Sick of the sullens* (or *sullen-sick*), very gloomy (1580).

Sultry. Lively, exciting, perhaps unpleasant: cf. Hot, Warm, etc.

Summer-complaint. Diarrhœa.

Summer-bird. A cuckold, cuckoo, q.v. Also *summer-cabbage*, a woman (1560).

Summer-game. A game for amusement only, or with another's money.

Summer's-day. *As nice* (*proper*, *goodly*, etc.) *as one can see in a summer's-day*, as nice (proper, etc.) as may be: cf. Day's-march (1592).

Sumph. A simpleton. Hence *sumpish*, stupid (1821).

Sumpsimus. See Mumpsimus.

Sumpsy. An action of *assumpsit*.

Sun. *Been in the sun* (or *sunshine*, or *got the sun in one's eyes*), drunk: see Screwed (1670). *To make hay while the sun shines*, to seize an opportunity (1509). *To get the sun over the foreyard*, to drink before noon. See Knight, Shoot.

Sunburnt. 1. Superficial, hackneyed, unbeautiful (1570). 2. Having many (male) children (*B. E.*).

Sunday. See Show-Sunday, Month of Sundays, and Queen Dick.

Sunday-best (or **clothes**). Clothes kept for use on Sundays and holidays; best clothes (1838).

Sunday Face. The posteriors.

Sunday-man. 1. One who goes abroad on that day only, for fear of arrests (*Grose*). 2. A prostitute's bully; also *Sunday girl*, a mistress.

Sunday-saint. One who roisters through the week and pulls a long face on Sunday.

Sunday's-fellow. 'One asked Tarlton why Munday was called *Sundaies fellow?* Because he is a sausie fellow, saies Tarlton, to compare with that holy day. But it may be Munday thinkes himselfe Sundayes fellow because it followes Sunday, and is next after; but he comes a day after the faire for that (*Tarlton*, 1611).

Sunderland-fitter. The Knave of Clubs (*Halliwell*).

Sun-dodger. A heliographer.

Sun-dog. A mock sun.

Sundowner. One of a class of men who came to be known by the name of sundowners, from their habit of straggling up to an upcountry station at fall of evening with the stereotyped appeal for work; and work being at that hour impossible, they were sent to the travellers' hut for shelter and to the store-keeper or cook for the pannikin of flour, the bit of mutton, the sufficiency of tea for a brew, which made up a ration.

Sunny-bank. A good rousing winter fire (*B. E.*).

Sunny South. The mouth.

Sunshades. The Sunchales Extension of the Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway Company shares.

Sunshine. See Sun.

Supe (or **Super**). 1. A supernumerary: whence *super-master*, the director of the supernumeraries: also as verb. 2. The superintendent of a station (Australian). 3. A watch:

supe and slang, watch and chain; *super-screwing*, stealing watches. 4. A toady: spec., one who lick-spittles (q.v.) the professors.

Superannuate (Winchester). A boy who was obliged to leave at Election, owing to his being past eighteen years of age. Founders were not *superannuate* till they were twenty-five.

Superfine Review. *The Saturday Review.* [A coinage of Thackeray's (1860-63) in *The Roundabout Papers.*]

Supernaculum. 'Drinking *super nagulum*, a devise of drinking new come out of Fraunce: which is, after a man hath turned up the bottom of the cup, to drop it on his naile, and make a pearle with that is left; which if it slide, and he cannot make it stand on, by reason ther's too much, he must drinke againe for his penance' (*Nashe*): [Garden Latin: *super naculum*, on the nail.] Whence (2) right liquor; and (3) good liquor, of which there is not even a drop left sufficient to wet one's nail (*Grose*).

Superstitious-pie. 'Minc'd, or Christmas-Pies, so Nick-nam'd by the Puritans, or Precisians, tho' they can Eat 'em, but affecting to be singular, make them a Month or six Weeks before Christmas, or the Feast of Christ' (*B. E.*).

Supouch. An hostess or landlady (*B. E.*).

Supper. *To set one his supper*, to perform a feat impossible for another to imitate.

Supple Twelfth. The 12th Lancers.

Surat. An adulterated article of inferior quality. Since the American Civil War, it has not been unusual for manufacturers to mix American cotton with surat, and, the latter being an inferior article, the people in Lancashire have begun to apply the term *surat* to any article of inferior or adulterated quality (*Hotten*).

Sure. *To make* (or *be*) *sure to*, to betroth, to be engaged to marry (1535). *Sure as the creed* (*as eggs, fate, death, a gun*, etc.), as sure as may be, of a certainty (1393).

Sure Card (or **Thing**). A certainty, anything entirely trustworthy (*B. E.*) (1537).

Suresby. A dependable person: cf. Rudesby, Wigsby, etc. (1586).

Surf. A half-and-half professional (q.v.) player or musician: combining some daily occupation with nightly duty on or in connection with the boards.

Surly. *As surly as a butcher's dog*, very surly (1670).

Surly-boots (or **Surling**). A grumpy morose fellow: cf. Lazy-boots (1623).

Surprisers (The). The 46th Foot, now the 2nd Batt. of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

Surtout. A loose, great, or riding Coat (*B. E.*).

Surveyor of the Highway. A man reeling drunk: see Inspector.

Surveyor of the Pavement. A man in the pillory.

Suspense. *In deadly suspense*, hanged (*Grose*).

Sus. per Coll. Hanged by the neck — Lat. *suspensus per collum.* [*Grose*: persons who have been hanged are thus entered in the jailer's books.]

Suspicion. A very small quantity: cf. Fr., *soupçon* (1863). As verb, to suspect.

Sut. Satisfactory, fortunate.

Swab. 1. See Swabber. 2. A naval officer's epaulet: jocose or in contempt: cf. Swabber.

Swabber. 1. The sorriest seamen put to wash and clean the ship (*B. E.*): in this sense good Shakespearean English. 2. A term of contempt: also Swab (1602). 3. The ace of hearts, knave of clubs, ace and deuce of trumps at whist (*B. E.*): the holder was entitled to a portion of the stakes: these four cards were only incident to betting at whist (1700).

Swack (Christ's Hospital). Deception. Hence *to swack up*, to deceive; to take in (q.v.). Also *swack-up*, a falsehood.

Swad. 1. A reproach: generic: spec. (*a*) a rustic or clodhopper; and (*b*) a disbanded soldier (*Grose*), nowadays a militiaman: also *swadder*, *swadkin*, *swadgill*, and *swaddy* (1534). 2. A lump, bunch, crowd, mass: also *swod.*

Swadder. 1. A peddlar (1567). 2. See Swad.

Swaddle. To cudgel, to rope's end, to swathe round with lash or stick. Hence *swadler*, the tenth order of the canting tribe (*B. E.*) who not only rob, but beat and often murder passengers (*Grose*) (1570).

Swaddler. (1) A Methodist (*Grose*). Hence spec. (2) those who in winter play the Protestant, for the sake of the blankets, coals, etc., given by proselytisers. Also (3), in America, a street preacher, spec. (American thieves') a preaching confederate. See Swad and Swaddle.

Swag. 1. A shop: spec. a mart for stolen goods. Whence a *rum-swag*, a shop full of rich goods (*B. E.*); and *swag-barrow*, a coster's cart. 2. Generic for property; spec. booty; *swag-chovey bloke*, a marine store dealer; *swagsman*, (*a*) a receiver of stolen goods, and (*b*) a miscellaneous dealer in City penn'orths and other cheap stuff, wholesale or retail. 3. (Australian). A tramp's bundle in a bluey (q.v.); hence personal luggage, traps (q.v.): as verb, to tramp the bush carrying a *swag*; *swagman* (*swagger*, or *swaggie*), a man travelling in search of work: cf. Sundowner (1853).

Swag-belly. A very fat man or woman, a swing-paunch. Hence *swaggy* (or *swag-bellied*), fat, forty-gutted (q.v.) (1550).

Swagger. 1. Bluster, bravado, roaring insolence, side (q.v.); as verb, to strut defiantly, to boast, to bluster, to affect or obtrude superiority: also derivatives such as *swaggerer* and *swaggering* (1598). 2. (Harrow). The rules of swagger are most complex; and a new boy is apt to find himself entangled: he goes out with his umbrella rolled up . . . or carries it by the middle, or under his arm, or he walks on the middle terrace after chapel, or he innocently wears his blues open when it is hot, or turns his trousers up when it is wet, and . . . he is swaggering; lady visitors sometimes think small boys at Harrow rude . . . to stick close to the wall . . . and shoulder the world into the gutter—it is modesty; to walk in the road is *swagger*; to loiter at the house door, or to sing or whistle in the passages, and to wear a hat in the house are also forms of swagger (*Warner*). As adj., tip-top (q.v.), swell (q.v.), extremely new.

Swaining. Love-making, spooning (q.v.) (1839).

Swallow. (1) The throat: also *swallow-pipe*; (2) the act of swallowing; and (3) a mouthful: hence (4) taste, relish, inclination, or capacity. As verb, to receive, endure, or embrace credulously, patiently, without examination, scruple or reserve; occasionally *to swallow whole*. Hence *swallowable*, credible (1596). Phrases: One *swallow* does not make a spring (1546); *to swallow a spider*, to become a bankrupt (1670); You say true; will you *swallow* my knife ? (a sarcastic retort on an impossible story); *to swallow a tavern token*, to get drunk (1596); *to swallow the cackle*, to learn a part (theatrical); He has *swallowed* a stake, and cannot stoop (of a very upright unbending person).

Swallow-tail. '1. An arrow, having two points or barbs, looking backward to the stele and the feathers, which surely we call in English a broad arrow head, or a swallow-tail' (*Ascham*). 2. The points of a burgee. 3. A dress coat, a steel-pen coat (q.v.). 4. A tongue always wagging (1690).

Swan. *I swan*, I swear! Also (more emphatically), *I swan to man!* (1842).

Swank. To work hard: cf. Swink. *Swanker*, a hard-working student.

Swankey. Any weak tipple: spec. small beer: also (fishermen's) a mixture of water, molasses, and vinegar.

Swannery. *To keep a swannery*, to boast of one's own doings (possessions, etc.), to make out that all one's geese are swans (*Grose*).

Swan-slinger. A player fond of or famous for spouting Bill (q.v.); a Shakespearean actor: the same as slinging the Swan of Avon.

Swap (or Swop). An act of barter, an exchange: as verb, to exchange, to strike a bargain (1360). *To get the swap* (or *swop*), to be dismissed. *To swap off*, to cheat, to sell (q.v.).

Swapper. Anything large or big. Hence *swapping*, huge, strong; A1 (1589).

Swarm. To climb, *to shin up*.

Swarry. A boiled leg of mutton and trimmings (1837).

Swartwout. To abscond. [From the name of a public defaulter in New York.]

Swash. To make a noise: 'a ruffian is the same with a swaggerer, so called, because endeavouring to make that side to swag or weigh down whereon he ingageth; the same also with *swash-buckler*, from swashing or making a noise on bucklers (*Fuller*). Hence *swash-buckler* (*swash*, *swasher*, or *swinge-buckler*), a sworder good at a lively peal on his opposite's target; and, therefore, by implication, a ruffler, bully, Hector. As subs., bluster, vapouring, roaring; *swashing* (or *swashy*), (1) noisy (a *swashing* blow); and (2) loud-mouthed and quarrelsome (1560).

Swash-bucket. A slattern.

Swat. 1. A blow: as verb, (1) to strike, to hit; (2) to work hard, to sweat (q.v.). Also as subs., 2. hard study: spec. (Royal Military Academy), mathematics.

Swatchel (Punch and Judy). Punch. Hence *swatchel-* (or *schwassle-*) *box*, the Punch and Judy show; *swatchel-cove*, a Punch and Judy man: spec. the patterer. The other terms connected with this drama of the streets are:—*Mozzy*, Judy; *darkey*, the negro; *vampo*, the clown; *vampire*, the ghost; *buffer*, the dog; *buffer-figure*, the dog's master; *crocodile*, the demon; *filio*, the baby; *the frame*, the street arrangement; *peepsies*, the panpipes; *nobbing-slum*, the bag for collecting money; *the letter cloth*, the advertisement; *tambour*, the drum; *the stalk* (or *prop*), the gallows; *the slum fake*, the coffin; the *slum*, the call.

Swattled. Drunk; see Screwed.

Swear. An oath, a cuss (q.v.): also *swear-word*. Also (colloquial) *to swear at* (said of anything incongruous): e.g. His frock coat swore at his bowler hat; *to swear like a lord* (*trooper*, etc.), to volley oaths, to make the air blue (q.v.); *to swear through a nine inch plank* (nautical), to back up any lie (*C. Russell*: a favourite expression of Lord Nelson when referring to American skippers) (1531).

Sweat. 1. To work hard, to drudge, to put in licks (q.v.); also *to sweat one's guts out*: cf. modern (public school) *swat* (or *swot*), fagging, hard study, especially mathematics, whence *swot* also, a mathematician; and as verb, to fag, or study hard: this word (swot) originated at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, in the broad Scotch pronunciation of Dr. Wallace, one of the Professors, of the word sweat (*Hotten*). 2. To suffer, to pay the penalty: also to beat, to pay out (1610). 3. A street bully; it was their practice to cut off a small portion of the scabbards of the swords which every one then wore, and prick, or pink, the persons with whom they quarrelled with the naked points, which were sufficiently protruded to inflict considerable pain, but not sufficient to cause death. *Sweating*, a diversion practised by the bloods of the last century, who styled themselves Mohocks: these gentlemen lay in wait to surprise some person late in the night, when surrounding him, they with their swords pricked him in the posteriors, which obliged him to be constantly turning round: this they continued till they thought him sufficiently sweated (*Grose*). 4. To extort, lose, or squander money freely, to fleece (q.v.), to bleed (q.v.); *to sweat one's purse*, to cause one to spend everything (1784). 5. To work for (or employ labour at) starvation wages; to submit to extortion (or to extort); hence *sweater*, an employer of underpaid labour: usually a middleman between the actual employer and employed; a grinding taskmaster; whence *sweating-system*, *sweater*, *sweated*, etc. (1850). 6. To pawn (1811). Phrases: *In a sweat*, (1) in a hurry, and (2) in a state of terror, impatient; *to sweat coins*, to remove part of the metal from coins (chiefly gold) by friction or acids, yet in such a manner that the depreciation is imperceptible (1785).

Sweat-box. The cell used for prisoners while awaiting appearance before a magistrate.

Sweater (Winchester). 1. A servant; hence *sweat-gallery*, fagging juniors. 2. A thick coat (or flannel jersey) worn by contestants after a finish until they can be rubbed down. 3 (Stock Exchange). A broker who works for such small commissions as to prevent other brokers getting the business, whilst hardly being profitable to himself. 4. See Sweat.

Sweat-pits. The arm-pits (1709).

Sweep. 1. A sweepstakes. 2. A term of contempt: e.g. What a sweep the man is. You dirty sweep. *To sweep the board*, to take everything, to pocket all the stakes; *to make a clean sweep*, to clean out (q.v.), to remove entirely; also *sweep*, at whist, taking all the tricks in the hand, a slam (q.v.) (1680). *The sweeps*, the Rifle Brigade. Their facings from formation (1800) have been black.]

Sweep's-frill. Beard and whiskers worn round the chin, the rest of the face being clean shaven.

Sweet. 1. Gullible, easily deceived. 2. Expert, dexterous, clever: e.g. Sweet's your hand (said of a clever thief). Hence *to sweeten a victim*, to allay his suspicions (*Grose*), to decoy, draw in, and bite (*B. E.*): see Sweetener.

Sweetbread. A bribe, a tip (q.v.) (1692).

Sweeten. A beggar. Also as verb, (1) to give alms (*Grose*); (2) to contribute to the pool; hence *sweetening*, money paid into the pool or kitty. *To sweeten and pinch*, a main part of his [a bum-bailiff's] office is to swear and bluster . . . and cry Confound us, why do we wait? let us shop him; whilst the other meekly replies, Jack, be patient, it is a civil gentleman, and I know will consider us; which species of wheedling, in terms of their art, is called *sweeten and pinch* (*Harl. Misc.*).

Sweetener. 1. A guinea-dropper (q.v.): a coin is planted (q.v.), and a likely passer-by is offered a share because present at the discovery; to get change, drinks are suggested, and the victim goes out fleeced (1699). 2. A runner-up (q.v.) of prices; a bonnet (q.v.). 3. In pl., the lips; *to fake the sweeteners*, to kiss. 4. One who decoys persons to game (*Bailey*); also *sweeten*, to decoy, to draw in.

Sweetheart. 1. A mistress, *pour le bon motif*; and 2. a wanton term (*Huloet*). Also variants: *sweet*, *sweeting*, *sweetkins*, *sweet-lips*, etc. Also *sweetkin*, adj., delicate, dainty; and *sweet on*, in love with, partial to (1534).

Sweeties. Sweetmeats also *sweet-stuff* (1758).

Sweet-lips. 1. An epicure, a glutton. 2. See Sweetheart.

Sweetmeat. *After sweet meat comes sour sauce*, a monition to temperance and sobriety (*Bailey*).

Sweet-tooth. A liking for sweet things or sweetmeats.

Swell. 1. A gentleman; but any well-dressed person is emphatically termed a *swell*, or a rank *swell*. A family man who appears to have plenty of money, and makes a genteel figure, is said by his associates to be in *Swell Street*. Anything remarkable for its beauty or elegance, is called a *swell* article; so a *swell crib* is a genteel house; a *swell* mollisher, an elegantly dressed woman, etc. Sometimes in alluding to a particular gentleman, whose name is not requisite, he is styled, *the swell*, meaning the person who is the object of your discourse or attention; and whether he is called *the swell*, the cove, or the gory, is immaterial, as in the following (in addition to many other) examples: I was turned up at China-street, because *the swell* would not appear; meaning, of course, the prosecutor: again, speaking of a person whom you were on the point of robbing, but who has taken the alarm, and is therefore on his guard, you will say to your pal, It's of no use, the cove is as down as a hammer; or, We may as well stow it, the gory's leary (*Grose*). 2. It is very hard to define exactly what is meant by a *swell* at Eton; but it usually implies a boy who, brought into notice either by athletic prowess or scholarship, or high standing in the school, by this means becomes acquainted with the leading members of the school, and is found on acquaintance to develop considerable social qualities, which make him hand and glove with all the Eton magnates (*Oliphant*). Hence, as adj. (also *swellish*), (1) elegant, stylish, dandified and (2) first-rate, tip-top (q.v.). Also derivatives and combinations such as *swelldom*, the world of fashion; *to live in Swell-street*, to reside in the West End; *a swell hung in chains*, a bejewelled man or woman; *a howling swell* (see Howling); *swell-head* (or *block*), a vain coxcomb (Amer.). 3. (Winchester). In pl., Sunday Services, Saints' days, etc.: when surplices are worn. As verb (Winchester), to bathe, to swill.

Swell-head. 1. A drunken man: see Lushington. 2. See Swell and Swollen head.

Swell-mobsman. A well-dressed pickpocket. Hence *swell-mob* (1843).

Swelled-nose. Ill temper. *Does your nose swell* (or *itch*) *at that?* Are you riled?

Swell-nose. Strong ale, stingo (q.v.) (1515).

S'welp. So help: usually in the adjurations, *S'welp me bob*, or *S'welp my taters* (*bob*, *greens*, etc.) (1837).

Swift. A quick-working compositor (1841).

Swig. A deep draught: also as verb, to drink heartily, to pull hard (q.v.). Hence *swiggled*, drunk: see Screwed (1623).

Swigman. A pedlar-thief (1567).

Swill. To drink (and, occasionally, to eat) piggishly: hence as subs., booze (q.v.), the lap, or the act: in contempt. *Swill-bowl* (*swiller*, *swill-pot*, *swill-tub*, or *swill-belly*), a heavy toper (or glutton); *swilled*, drunk: see Screwed (1530).

Swim. One's particular pursuits, pitch (q.v.), or fancy. Hence *in a good* (or *bad*) *swim*, lucky (or unlucky). *In the swim*, (1) participant in the times. 2. In the inner circle or the know (q.v.). 3. Associated in any undertaking. 4. A long time out of the hands of the police (thieves'): Fr., *dans le mouvement* (or *le train*). *To swim in golden grease* (*oil*, *lard*, etc.), to roll in bribes: see Grease (1605). *To make a man swim for it*, to cheat a pal out of his share of booty. *How we apples swim*: see Apples.

Swimmer. 1. 'A Counterfeit (old) Coyn' (*B. E.*). 2. A guard-ship, or tender; a thief who escapes prosecution, when before a magistrate, on condition of being sent on board the receiving-ship, to serve His Majesty, is said by his pals to be *swimmered* (*Grose*): also *to have a swimmer*.

Swimming. Generic for plenty: thus a *swimming* (a full or brisk) *market*: cf. Sick; a *swimming* (an overfull) *dish*; a *swimming* (an extremely pleasant) *time*, etc. Hence *swimmingly*, successfully, prosperously (1622).

Swindle. 1. Originally (and properly) a fraud or imposition (in which sense see Swindler). 2. Loosely and frequently, any speculation or matter of chance: e.g. a lottery, a toss for drinks, a sweepstakes, a race, etc.; also (more loosely still) any transaction in which money passes: e.g. What's the swindle, What's to pay (or the damage)? Why don't you pay the man his swindle? Why don't you give the price? *Swindler* (q.v.) is quite another matter.

Swindler. A cheat, a rogue: spec. one who employs petty or mean artifices, legal or illegal, for defrauding others. Hence *swindle*, a fraud, a deception, an imposition: and as verb, to cheat, to defraud. Whence, also, derivatives such as *swindleable*, *swindlery*, *swindling*, etc. [Orig. used of German Jews who settled in London, *circa* 1762. Also by soldiers in the Seven Years' War.]

Swine. A term of the utmost contempt. Hence *swinish*, greedy, gluttonous, covetous (*B. E.*) (1597). Phrases and proverbial sayings: Like a *swine*, never good until he come to the knife (of a covetous person); *to sing like a bird called a swine*, to grunt; *to cast pearls before swine* (of unappreciated action or effort).

Swine-drunk. Beastly drunk: see Screwed (1592).

Swing. Bent, a free hand or course e.g. *to have* (or *take*) *one's swing* (or *full swing*), to do as one likes; also *to swing* (a matter) *over one's head*, *shoulders*, etc., to manage easily; *to swing a business* (*market*, *prices*, etc.), to control; to manage (1530). As verb, to hang: see Ladder. Hence, *the swing*, the gallows: see Nubbing cheat (1542). *To swing the monkey*, to strike with knotted handkerchiefs a man who swings to a rope made fast aloft; the person the monkey strikes whilst swinging takes his place.

Swinge. To beat, to thrash, to chastise, to punish (1280). Hence (Charterhouse) *swinger* (q.v.), a box on the ears. *Swingeing*, a thrashing; *swinge-buckler* (see Swash).

Swinging (**Swindging**, or **Swingeing**). Huge, astonishing: generic for size: anything that beats all else: see Swinge. Hence *swinger*, anything of size, a whopper (q.v.): spec. an unblushing falsehood (1623).

Swing-tail. A hog.

Swinny. Drunk: see Screwed: also *swinnied*.

Swipe. 1. A blow delivered with the full length of the arm; as verb, to drive (q.v.), to bang: hence *swiper*, a hard hitter, a slogger (q.v.), a knocker-out (q.v.): at Harrow, to birch (1200). 2. In pl., thin, washy beer, small beer: also (schools) any poor tipple: as verb, to drink; hence *swipey* (or *swiped*), drunk; and *swipes* a potman (1785); also see Purser's swipes. As verb, to steal: see Prig.

Swish. To flog. Hence *swishing*, a thrashing (1855).

Swished. Married (1785).

Swish-swash. Any weak beverage, slops (q.v.). 'There is a kind of swish-swash made also in Essex, and diverse other places, with honicombs and water, which the homelie countre wives, putting some pepper and a little other spice among, called mead, verie good in mine opinion for such as love to be loose-bodied at large, or a little eased of the cough; otherwise it differeth so much from the true metheglin as chalke from cheese' (*Holinshed*).

Swish-tail. 1. A pheasant. 2. A horse with undocked tail. 3. A schoolmaster.

Swiss Admiral. A pretender to naval rank: cf. Fr., *amiral suisse*, a naval officer solely employed on shore, or who has never been to sea.

Switch. *To switch in*, to be expeditious in movement.

Swivel-eyed. Squinting (*Grose*). Hence *swivel-eye*, a squint-eye, a boss-eye (q.v.).

Swivelly. Drunk: see Screwed.

Swizzle (or **Swizzy**). 1. Generic for drink; also, 2. various compounded drinks—rum and water, ale and beer mixed, and (West Indies) what is known in America as a cocktail. As verb, to tope, to swill (q.v.); and *swizzled*, drunk; also see Screwed (1850).

Swobber. See Swabber.

Swoddy. See Swad.

Swollenhead. *To have a swollen head*, (1) to put on airs, to be filled with a violent sense of one's own importance: also (2) to be drunk: see Screwed·: also *Swelled-head.*

Swop. See Swap.

Sword-racket. Enlisting in different regiments, and deserting after taking the bounty.

Swot. See Sweat. *In a swot* (Shrewsbury), in a rage.

Sydney-sider (or **bird**). A convict. [Sydney was originally a convict settlement.]

Syebuck. Sixpence: see Rhino (1785).

Syntax. A schoolmaster (*Grose*).

To a T. Exactly, to a nicety, as true as an angle drawn with a T-square (1698). *To be marked with a T*, known as a thief: formerly convicted thieves were branded with a T in the hand. *T. T.*, too thin or too transparent: e.g. the story is T. T.

Tab. 1. A check, an account; *to keep tab*, to keep watch. 2. In pl., the ears. *To drive tab*, to go out on a party of pleasure with a wife and family (*Grose*). *The Tab*, the Metropolitan Tabernacle in Newington Causeway.

Tabarder. A scholar on the foundation of Queen's College, Oxford: the original dress was a tabard; they are part of the foundation, which consists of a provost, 16 fellows, 2 chaplains, 8 tabarders, 12 probationary scholars, and 2 clerks,—*Oxf. Univ. Cal.* (1692).

Tabby. 1. An old maid; hence 2. a spiteful tattler: cf. Cat. *Tabby-party*, a gathering of women (1761).

Tabernacle. The shed in Moorfields, which Whitefield used as a temporary chapel, was called The Tabernacle; and, in the scornful dialect of certain Church of England men, Methodist and such-like places of worship have, since then, been known as Tabernacles. See Tin Tabernacle and Tab.

Table. *To turn the tables*, to reverse matters (1692).

Table-cloth (The). A white cloud covering the top of Table Mountain.

Tace. *Tace is Latin for a candle*, a cant phrase in the 18th century suggesting the expediency of silence. [Latin, *tacēre* (*Grose*).]

Tach. A hat: see Golgotha.

Tachs. A fad, mental eccentricity, blot, spot, stain, vice, quality, disposition, trick, enterprise.

Tack. Generic for food: specifically (1), bad food or bad malt liquor. Hence (2), in combination: e.g. *hard-tack*, coarse fare or (army and navy) biscuit as distinguished from bread; *soft-tack*, (*a*) good fare, and (*b*) bread: also *tackle*. At Sherborne School, *tack*, a feast in one's study. *To tack together*, to marry: cf. Hitch, Splice, Noose, etc. (1754).

Tacker. A great falsehood (*Halliwell*).

Tackle. 1. A mistress (1785) (*Grose*). 2. Good clothes (*B. E.*). 3. A watch chain; a *red tackle*, a gold chain. As verb, to do with energy, to set to work, to cope with, to attack: generic. Thus, *to tackle* (to attempt the solution of) *a problem*; *to tackle* (to close with) *a burglar*, etc. (1844).

Tad. Perhaps an abbreviation of tadpole. 1. A very small boy, especially a small street-boy (*Century*); little *tads*, small boys; old *tads*, graybeards, old men (*Bartlett*). 2. Excrement (*Halliwell*).

Taf. Fat; e.g. *taf eno*, a fat man or woman (lit. fat one).

Taff. (Christ's Hospital). A potato.

Taffy. 1. A Welshman (1577); hence *Taffy's Day*, St. David's Day, the 1st March: a Welsh pronunciation of Davy. 2. Flattery, blarney (q.v.), soft-soap (q.v.): as verb, to flatter.

Tag (Winchester football). An off-side kick: also as verb. When a player has kicked the ball well forward, and has followed it, if it was then kicked back again behind him by the other side, he was then obliged to return to his original position with his own side. If the ball had, in the meantime, been again kicked in front of him, before he regained his position, and he was to kick it, it would be considered unfair, and he would be said *to tag* (*Mansfield*). *Tag, rag, and bob-tail*: see Rag.

Tag-end. The fag-end, the concluding portion.

Taglioni. An overcoat: named after the dancer (1837).

Tagrhyme. A rhymester (1698).

Tagster. A scold, a virago (*Halliwell*).

Tagtail. A parasite, a hanger-on.

Tail. 1. The lower or latter end. *To turn tail*, 1. to turn one's back on; 2. to run away, to shirk; *top over tail*, head over heels; *the tail-end*, the fag-end (q.v.). 3. A woman's dress: espec. when trailing on the ground (1774). 4. The reverse of a coin: spec. the side opposite to that bearing a head (q.v.): chiefly in phrase (heads or tails) in tossing; hence *neither head nor tail*, neither one nor the other, quite different (1774). 5. In pl., a tail-coat, as distinguished from a jacket; *charity-tails* (Harrow), a tail-coat worn by a boy in the Lower School who is considered by the headmaster to be tall enough to require it. 6. A girl's hair, curled, plaited, etc., and allowed to hang down the back in a single strand. 7. A line of persons waiting in rank; a queue: as outside a theatre, booking-office, etc. 8. A band of followers, retinue, henchmen. 9. A sword; *tail-drawer*, a sword stealer (*B. E.*). 10. The last two or three men in a batting eleven to go to the wickets. As verb, to tend sheep, to herd cattle (1844). Phrases and combinations: *tail of the eye*, the outer corner of the eye; *cow's-tail*, a frayed rope's-end, one not properly knotted: hence, *hanging in cow's tails* (said of a badly kept ship); *tail-end*, the latter part, the wind-up; *with one's tail between one's legs*, cowed, humiliated, conscious of defeat: also *with tail down*, *with tail up*, in good form or spirits; *with tail out*, angry; *with tail in the water*, thriving; *to flee the tail*, to near the end; *to twist the lion's tail*, to gird at England (or the English people); *to cast* (*lay* or *throw*) *salt on the tail*: see Salt (1678). Also proverbs and proverbial sayings: the devil wipes his *tail* with the poor man's pride (*Ray*); 'betweene two stools my *taile* goes to the ground' (*Heywood*); to make a rod for one's own *tail* (*Heywood*); like lambs, you do nothing but suck and wag your *tails*; she goes as if she cracked nuts with her *tail*; to look like a dog that has lost its *tail*; she's like a cat, she'll play with her own *tail*; make not thy *tail* broader than thy wings (keep not too many attendants); his *tail* will catch the chin-cough (said of one sitting on the ground); as hasty as a sheep, when the *tail* is up; as free as an ape is of his *tail*; he that aught the cow gangs nearest her *tail*; he holds the serpent by the *tail* (of anything absurd or foolish); to grow like a cow's *tail* (i.e. downwards); lay the head of the sow to the *tail* of the grice; to have a slippery eel by the *tail* (of anything uncertain); it melts like butter in a sow's tail; to swallow an ox, and be choked with the *tail*; the higher the ape goes, the more he shows his *tail;* there is as much hold of his word as of a wet eel by the *tail*; he hath eaten a horse and the *tail* hangs out of his mouth.

Tail-block. A watch.

Tail-board. The back flap of a little girl's breeches.

Tail-buzzer. A pickpocket.

Tailer (or Taylor). (1) A fall on the breech; a pratfall (q.v.); and (2) an exclamation on falling, or unexpectedly sitting down on one's *tail* (q.v.) (1592).

Tailor. *Nine* (*ten*, or *three*) *tailors make a man*, a jesting sarcasm (1605). *The fag-end of a tailor*, a botcher (1608). Phrases: A *tailor's* shreds are worth the cutting; Like the *tailor* who sewed for nothing, and found the thread himself; thieving and *tailor* go together; put a *tailor*, a miller, and a weaver into a sack, shake them well, and the first that puts out his head is certainly a thief (1600).

Tail-pipe. 1. To fasten anything to the tail of a cat or dog; hence, 2. to annoy (1857).

Tail-pulling. The publication of books of little or no merit, the whole cost of which is paid by the author: cf. Barabbas.

Take. 1. To please, to succeed. Hence, *taking* (or *taky*), attractive, captivating: also *to take to* (or *with*), or *to have a take* (1340). 2. To blight, to injure: by infection, disease, grief, etc.: as subs., a witch's charm; hence *taking*, infections (still colloquial or provincial) (1332). 3. To deliver a blow, to strike (1430). Phrases and colloquialisms: *take* has been, and still is, much in colloquial use; thus, *to take back*, to retract; *to take a breath*, to consider, to seek advice; *to take after*, to resemble; *to take about the neck*, to embrace; *to take any one forth*, to teach, to give a start; *to be taken by the face*, to be put to the blush; *to take beef*, to run away; *to take down*, (1) to humiliate (see Peg); (2) to beat (Australian); *to take up*, to reprove (also *to take to do*, *to task*, and *a talking to*); *to take heart*, to pluck up courage; *to take to heart*, to grieve; *to take it out*, (1) to get value, to extort or compel satisfaction or reparation; and (2) to exhaust; *to take one* (or *it*), to understand; *to take in*, (1) to deceive, to swindle (whence a *take-in* (*Bee*), fraud, humbug); (2), to believe; (3) to capture, subdue, seize (*B. E.*); *to take off*, (1) to kill (*taking-off*, death); (2) to ridicule, to mimic (*take-off*, a caricature); *to take out*, to copy; *to take on* or *by*, (1) to grieve, to show emotion (hence *taking*, a to-do); and (2), to simulate; *to take one* (or *a matter*) *on*, (1) to engage, to accept as an opponent; (2) to undertake; *to take to* (or *up*), generic for doing (e.g. to take to gambling, early rising, etc.); *to take to one's legs* (a shute, water, etc.), to fly; see Heels, adding quota. infra; *to take up* (old, *to take*), (1) to arrest; (2) to stop; (3) to reform; (4) to clear up (prov. of the weather); (5) to protect, to defend; (6) to borrow; (7) to rally, to snub; and (8) to understand; *to take upon*, to suspect; *to take upon oneself*, to arrogate authority, dignity, etc.; *to take up with*, (1) to consort with; (2) to court; (3) to endure; (4) to adopt; *to take the gloss off*, to detract in value; *to take the field*, to bet against the favourite; *to take up one's connections* (Amer. Univ.), to leave college; *to take an oath*, to take a drink; *to take one along* (or *with one*), to make understand; *to take one's teeth to anything*, to set to heartily; *to take a stick to*, to beat; *to take* (or *sit at*) *one's ease in one's inn*, to enjoy oneself: as if one were at home (hence, *taking it easy*, drunk); *take it as you like*, be angry or not—as you please (*Bee*). Also (proverbial) to *take* from one's right side to give to one's left; to *take one up* before he is down, to *take* the bird by the feet; *take* all, and pay the baker; to *take* a Burford bait (to get drunk); to *take* a dagger and drown oneself; to *take* a hair (q.v.) of the same dog; to *take* a thing in snuff (q.v.); to *take* a wrong sow (q.v.) by the ear; to *take* counsel of one's pillow; to *take* heart of grace; to *take* Hector's cloak (to deceive a friend); to *take* one a peg (q.v.) lower; to *take* physic before one is sick; who *takes* an eel by the tail and a woman by her word, may say that he holds nothing. See Aback, Back-seat, Beard, Beef, Bit, Book, Bosom, Bull, Bush, Button·

hole, Cake, Earth bath, Ease, French leave, Grinder, Ground sweat, Heels, Hook, Huff, Measure, Napping, Peg, Pepper, Potluck, Rag, Rise, Road, Running, Shilling, Shine, Sight, Silk, Snuff, Starch, Sun, Tea, Toll, Turn, Vain, Wind.

Take-a-fright. Night.

Taker. One who accepts a bet, a bookie (q.v.).

Taking. In pl., receipts (1851).

Tale. An incredible story, a marvellous narration: also *old wife's* (or *old man's*) *tale*: see Bull and Tub. Whence *tale-teller*, persons said to have been hired to tell wonderful stories of giants and fairies, to lull hearers to sleep. Also *to tell tales out of school*, (1) to romance, and (2) to play the informer: *tell-tale* (or *tell-tale-tit*), an informer; to *tell a tale*, to turn a matter to profit; *his tale is told*, it is all over with him; *to be in a tale*, to agree: also *to jump in one tale*; *thereby hangs a tale*, or *tell that for a tale* (the retort suggestive), that's another story; *to pitch a tale*, to spin a yarn: hence, *tale-pitcher*, a romancing talker or chattering malcontent.

Talesman. The author of a story or report: I'll tell you my *tale* and my *talesman* (*B. E.*)

Talent (The). In sing., a backer (q.v.): as opposed to a layer or bookmaker.

Talk. To roar (q.v.): of horses; hence, *talker*, a roarer. Colloquial phrases: *to talk one down*, to silence; *to talk one out of*, to dissuade; *to talk over*, (1) to persuade: also *to talk into*; and (2) to review; *to talk round*, to review a subject; *to talk up*, (1) to speak plainly (or defiantly); and (2) to discuss with a view to promotion; *to talk one up*, to urge; *to talk out*, to exhaust patience, time, etc.; *to talk to*, to chide: hence, *talking-to*, a reprimand; *to talk at*, to gird or chide covertly: talking of a person who is present to another; *to talk the hind leg off a jackass* (*cow*, *horse*, etc.), to seduce, to wheedle, to charm: also *to talk one mad*, *to death*, *into a thing*, *fever*, etc.; *to talk Greek*, *Dutch* (or *Double Dutch*), to talk nonsense; *to talk through one's neck* (American), to talk foolishly; *to talk Turkey*, to say pleasant things. Also, *talk* of the angels (or the devil) and you'll hear the rustling of their wings (or see his horns). See Big, Dutch-uncle, Shop, Tall-talk (1600).

Talkee-talkee. 1. A corrupt dialect, jargon. Whence, 2. chatter; verbiage. Also *talky-talky* (1810).

Talker. (1) Then followed solos from those who could sing, and those who could not—it made no difference. The latter class were called *talkers*, and every boy was encouraged to stand up and *talk it out* (*Howson*). (2) See Talk.

Talking-iron. A gun, rifle: also Shooting-iron (q.v.) (1843).

Tall. 1. Generic for worth. Thus, *tall* (seemly) *prayers*; a *tall* (valiant) *man*, *tall* (fine) *English*; a *tall* (courageous) *spirit*; a *tall* (celebrated) *philosopher*; *to stand tall*, to reply boldly; *tally* (becomingly or finely) *attired*; a *tall* (great) *compliment*, etc. [*Century*: The word *tall* (high, lofty), as applied to a man, has been confused with *tall* fine, brave, excellent: cf. however, sense 2]. Whence *tall for his inches*, plucky for size (1430). 2. Anything out of the common: e.g. a *tall* (severe) *fight*; *tall* (extravagant) *talk*: whence *to talk tall*, to *gas* (q.v.); a *tall* (a great) *pace*, etc. Hence as adv., very, exceedingly. Also, *to walk tall*, to carry one's head high; to put on side (q.v.) (1704).

Tall-boy. 1. A wine glass: large, high-stemmed, and showy; spec. 'a Pottle or two Quart-pot full of Wine' (*B.E.*) (1694). 2. A very tall chimney-pot.

Tall-men. Highmen (q.v.).

Tallow. A term of contempt; thus *tallow-keech* (*tallow-face*, or *tallow-breech*), a very fat person: whence *tallow-faced*, sickly, pale, undermade; *tallow-gutted*, pot-bellied; *tallow-breeched*, fat-breeched.

Tally (or To Live Tally). To live in concubinage; chiefly mining. Also *to make a tally-bargain*.

Tally-men. Brokers that let out clothes at moderate rates to wear per week, month, or year (*B. E.*); that let out clothes to the women of the town (*Grose*).

Tame. *To run tame*. To live familiarly in the family with which one is upon a visit (*Grose*).

Tame-army. The London Trained Bands (*Grose*): [cf. Foote's description (*Mayor of Garratt*) of the London regiments as holiday soldiers, never wet to the skin in their lives except as a matter of accident.

Tame-cat. A woman's fetch-and-carry, a hearthrug saint.

Tame-goose. A foolish fellow: a simpleton; also *tame-fellow*, tractable, easy, manageable (*B. E.*) (1598).

Tamper. To practise upon anyone (*B. E.*).

Tan. To flog; to thrash. Hence, *tanning*, a beating. Also, *to tan one's hide* (1600). *To smell of the tan*, to smack of the ring, to be circussy: cf. lamp.

Tandem. 1. A two-wheeled chaise, buggy, or noddy, drawn by two horses, one before the other; that is, *at length* (*Grose*). Hence, 2. a carriage so drawn; and, 3. a bicycle for two riders.

Tangierenes (The). 1. The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), late the 2nd Foot: 2. The King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment), late the 4th Foot. [Tangiers formed part of the dowry of Catherine of Braganza, the Queen of Charles II.: the regiments were raised for the defence of that possession.]

Tangle. A tall, lanky person.

Tanglefoot (or Tangleleg). Any intoxicating liquor. *Tanglefooted*, drunk: see Screwed (1862).

Tank (King Edward's School, Birm.) To cane, to cosh (q.v.).

Tankard. *Tears of the tankard*, drippings of liquor on the waistcoat (1670).

Tanner. Sixpence: 6d.: e.g. The kiddy tipt the rattling-cove a *tanner* for luck, the lad gave the coachman sixpence for drink: see Rhino. Hence, *tannergram*, a telegram; when the minimum cost was reduced from 1s. to 6d. (1843).

Tannikin. A Dutch placket; maid, wife, or widow (1605).

Tanquam. A Fellow's fellow in our universities (*Blount*, 1681).

Tantadlin. See Tantoblin.

Tantarabobs. The devil (*Halliwell*).

Tantivy. Primarily a hunting call: a note on the horn. As subs., (1) full chase; (2) violent movement; (3) a fox-hunting parson; and (4) temp. Charles II., a High Tory: also *Tantivy-boy*. As adj., swift. As verb, to racket, to gallop, to rush (1602).

Tantoblin. Excrement: also *tantadlin* and *tantadlin tart* (1768).

Tantony (or Tantony Pig). 1. The smallest pig in a litter: hence a favourite. *To follow like a tantony pig*, to follow closely. Hence *tantony*, 2. a servile follower, a petted retainer. 3. See Saint.

Tantrum. Usually in pl., a pet (q.v.), the sullens, angry whims (1754).

Taoc. A coat. Thus *Kool the delo taoc*, look at the old coat: also in contemptuous reference to the wearer. *Taoc-tisaw*, a waistcoat; and *taoc-ittep*, petticoat.

Tap. 1. A gentle blow (*Grose*): whence *to tap* (or *tap on the shoulder*), to arrest; *tapper*, a bailiff: also *shoulder-tapper*. 2. In pl., the ears: see Hearing cheats. 3. (Eton College). The only place, recognised by the authorities, where a boy can get beer. As verb, to broach; also *to tap one's claret*, to draw blood (see Claret); *to tap the wires*, to intercept a telegram; *to tap a house*, to burgle; *to tap the admiral* (see Admiral); *to tap a guinea*, to change it (*Grose*). *To be on one's taps*, on the alert, on one's feet, ready to move. *To get the tap*, to get the upper hand. *On tap*, available, at hand, on view.

Tape. Spirits: hence *red-tape*, brandy; *white* (or *blue*) *tape*, gin; cf. Ribbon (1755).

Tape-worm (Stock Exchange). An official who collects the prices of stock for transmission on the tape.

Taplash. 1. Bad, thick beer: cask-dregs or tap-droppings. Hence, as adj., poor, washy, trivial (1630), Hence, 2. a publican: in contempt.

Tappy. *On the tappy*, under consideration, on the *tapis* (1690).

Tap-shackled. Drunk: see Screwed (1610).

Tap-tub (The). The *Morning Advertiser*: also *The Gin and Gospel Gazette* (1823).

Tar. A sailor: also *tarpaulin* (of which tar is an abbreviation), *Jack Tar*, *tarbreech* (or *tarrybreeks*), and *tarbarrel*: hence *tar-terms*, proper sea phrases or words (*B. E.*); *tar-hood*, the navy (1582). *To tar out*, to punish, to serve out; *to tar and feather*, a practice of great antiquity, but rare nowadays: heated tar is poured over a person, who is then covered with feathers. *Tarred with the same brush*, alike.

Tar-box. A shepherd: in contempt. Hence the proverbial sayings, *To lose a sheep* (erron. *ship*) *for a ha'-porth of tar* (*Grose*); and, to caper like a fly in a *tar-box* (1672).

Tar-brush. Black blood: in contemptuous reference to colour; *a touch of the tar-brush*, a dash of the negro (1785).

Tare-and-tret. City bon-ton for—a Rowland for an Oliver, no matter the juxtaposition of the two matters. To give as good as is brought (*Bee*).

Tar-fingers. A petty pilferer: see Pitch-fingers. Hence *tarry*, thievish (1822).

Tarleather. A woman: in contempt (1551).

Tardy (Winchester College). Late: e.g. I was *tardy* task, I was late with my work (1803).

Tarheel. An inhabitant of S. Carolina. [Tar is one of the chief products of the State.]

Tarnation (and Tarnal). Damnation, eternal: mild oaths. As adj., great, very, etc.: e.g. *tarnation* strange, a *tarnal* time, etc.

Tarpaulin. See Tar.

Tarradiddle. A fib, a yarn. As verb, to hoax (*Grose*).

Tart. Sharp, quick (*B. E.*); sour, sharp, quick, pert (*Grose*).

Tartar. 1. A bad or awkward tempered person: male or female. *To catch a tartar*, (1) to be caught in one's own trap; and (2) to get more than one bargained for, or the worst of an encounter (*B. E.*). [*Ency. Dict.*: Properly *Tatar*. The *r* was inserted in mediæval times to suggest that the Asiatic hordes who occasioned such anxiety to Europe came from hell (Tartarus), and were the locusts of Revelation ix.] Hence 2. an adept: e.g. He is quite a tartar at cricket or billiards (1663). 3. See Tartarian.

Tartarian (or tartar). A thief: spec. a strolling vagabond, a sharper (*B. E.*) (1596).

Tartuffe. A hypocrite, a pretender. [From the character in Molière's comedy.] Hence *tartuffish*, hypocritically precise; and *tartuffism*, hypocrisy (1768).

Tassy. Tasmania.

Taste. *Taste of the creature*, a dram, a drink; esp. of whisky (1570); *a nasty taste in one's mouth*, an unpleasant feeling: regret, loathing, anxiety, etc.

Taster. A small quantity, a taste: in quot. a small glass of ice-cream.

Tasty. 1. Full-flavoured (q.v.), nutty (q.v.), spicy (q.v.), thick (q.v.). Hence, 2. of the best, ripping (q.v.).

Tat. 1. In pl., dice, whence *tat box*, a dice box; *tat-monger* (or *tatogey*), a sharper or cheat using loaded dice; *tat's-man*, a dicing gambler; *tat-shop*, a gambling den (*B. E.*). 2. A rag: *milky tats*, white linen; also as verb, to collect rags; and *tatter*, a rag-gatherer (1851). 3. an abbreviation of tattoo, *tit for tat*, see Tit.

Ta-ta. A salutation, Good-bye!

Taterwagges. See Tatters.

Tater (or **Tatur**). A potato. Whence *tater-trap*, the mouth; *tater-and-point*, a meal of potatoes: see Point. Also as noteworthy, one or two phrases: e.g. *to settle one's taters*, to settle one's hash; *s'welp my taters* (see Swelp) (1838).

Tatol (Westminster). A tutor in Commoners.

Taterdemalion. A ragged wretch: a general term of contempt: also *tatter* and *rags-and-tatters*. *Tatarwaggs* and *Tatterwallops*, ragged clothes. As adj., ragged (1360); *to tatter a kip*, to wreck a brothel (1766).

Tattle-box. A chatterbox: also *tattler*, a gossip: see Tittle-tattle (1709).

Tattle-de-moy. A new-fashioned thing in . . . 1676, much like a saraband, only it had in it more of conceit and of humour . . . . Thomas Mace invented it . . . and he called it a *tattle-de-moy* because it tattles and seems to speak those very words or syllables (*Southey*).

Tattler. A watch; spec. an alarm, or striking watch, or (indeed) any (*B. E.*). Hence, *to flash a tattler*, to wear a watch; *to speak to a tattler*, to steal a watch: also *tattle* (1781).

Tattling fellow (or woman). Prating, impertinent (*B. E.*).

Tattoo. See Devil's Tattoo.

Taunton-turkey. A herring: cf. *Billingsgate-pheasant*, *Glasgow-magistrate*, etc. (1850).

Taut. Severe. Hence *taut hand*, a disciplinarian.

Tavern (The). New Inn Hall, Oxford. [A punning allusion: also because the buttery is open all day long] (1853). *To hunt a tavern fox* (or *to swallow a tavern token*), to get drunk. Hence, the *tavern bitch* has bit him in the head (or *taverned*), drunk: see Screwed. Also *taverner*, a tippler (1340).

Tavistock (or Tawstock) Grace. Finis.

Taw. A marble. *Tawlings* (or *taw*), the line from which the marble is shot: hence (American), *to come to taw*, to come to scratch (q.v.), to be called to account; *to be on one's taw*, a species of threat (1764). As verb, (1) to beat, to scourge (*Grose*); and (2) to torment. Also *taws* (or *tawse*), a leather strap, slit or fringed at one end, used by schoolmasters (1549).

Tawdry. (1) Orig. fine, elegant, trim; whence (2) cheaply showy, ignorantly fine. Also derivations such as *tawdered*, *tawdrily*, *tawdriness*, etc. *Tawdry-lace* (or *tawdry*), a rustic necklace or girdle; *tawdrums*, fal-lals (1530).

Tawny-coat. An ecclesiastical officer. [From the livery.] (1577).

Tawny-moor. A mulatto (1717).

Tax-collector. A highwayman.

T-beard. A fashion in trimming the beard; a beard cut T-wise (1618).

Tea. Urine: see Cold-tea, Long-tea, and Tea-voider (1712). As verb, (1) to take tea: cf. dine, lunch, sup, etc. (all recognised) (1837); (2) to engage with, encounter, go in against.

Teach. See Grandmother and Suck. *To teach iron to swim*, to achieve the impossible.

Teach-guy. Eight shillings.

Teacup. *Storm* (or *tempest*) *in a teacup* (or *teapot*), much ado about nothing: cf. a tide and flood though it be but in a basin of water (1699).

Tea-fight. A tea party: cf. Muffin-worry, Toffee-scramble, etc.

Tea Party. See Boston Tea-party and Nice.

Teague. An Irishman: in contempt. Hence *Teagueland*, Ireland (1661).

Teaich-gir. Right; pronounced tadger. Hence *tadging*, tip-top (q.v.).

Team. Two or more persons associated for some purpose: e.g. a foot-ball side, a cricket eleven, a coach's pupils, etc. [Properly of animals harnessed together.] Hence *team-work*, work in company (1622).

Tear. A boisterous jollification, a spree (q.v.); as verb, to move, speak, or act violently, to rant, to fume; hence *tearer* or *tear-cat* or *Timothy Tearcat* (1) a blusterer, a bully, a roarer (q.v.); and (2) anything violent; *tearing*, violent, raving, etc.; *tear-mouth* (or *tear-throat*), a ranting actor: and as adj., vociferous; *to tear Christ's body*, to blaspheme; *to tear one's beard* (or *hair*), a simile of violent emotion (1383). *To tear one's seat*, to attempt too much.

Tear-pump. *To work the tear-pump*, to weep, to turn on the water-works.

Tease. *On the tease*, uneasy, fidgety (1706). See Teaser.

Teaser. 1. A disturbing blow; *to tease* (or *teaze*), to flog; *to nap the teaze*, to be flogged (1840). 2. Anything difficult or perplexing (1823). *Teaser of the catgut*, see Catgut-scraper.

Tea-voider. A chamber pot (*Grose*).

Tea-waggon. An East Indiaman (1836).

Tec. A detective: see Nark.

Teddy. *Teddy my godson*, an address to a simple fellow or ninny (*Grose*).

Teddy Hall. St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford.

Te Deum. See Backwards.

Teejay (Winchester College). A new boy, a *protegé*: placed for a time under the care of older scholars; cf. Shadow and Substance.

Teek (or Tique) (Harrow school). Mathematics.

Teeny (or Teeny-weeny). Tiny.

Teeth. *In spite of one's teeth*, in defiance of; *in the teeth*, to one's face; *from the teeth*, apparently, not seriously; *to cast in the teeth*, to taunt, to reproach; *tooth and nail*, whole-hearted, desperate, thorough; *to show one's teeth*, to get angry; *to have the teeth well afloat* (or *under*), to be drunk; *to the hard teeth*, very severely. He ought to have his *teeth* drawn, He should be deprived of the power of doing mischief; *to go to grass with teeth upwards*, to be buried; *to draw teeth*, to wrench off knockers (old: medical students').

Teethward. *Clerk to the teethward*, he hath eaten his service book; spoken in mockage by such as maketh shew of learning and be not learned (*Hollyband*).

Teetotal. In 1818 a temperance society at Hector, New York, pledged themselves to abstain from distilled spirits only, but in Jan. 1827 another pledge bound all signers to total abstinence. The two classes were distinguished by the initials O.P. (Old Pledge) and T. (Total): T total became a familiar allocution (*Century*).

Teetotal Hotel (The). A prison.

Teignton-squash. Perry (1834).

Teize. See Tease.

Tejus. Tedious, extremely, wearyingly, tiresomely: e.g. tejus good, bad, quick, slow, etc.

Telegraph. See Milk and Underground.

Telescope. To silence.

Tell. A story; a *bon mot*; spec. one worth telling. Also, *according to their tell*, upon their making out (1743). See Marines, Noses, Tales.

Tell-clock. An idler (1639).

Teller. 1. A well-delivered blow; anything that scores; hence *telling*, effective, to the point (1834). 2. See Tailor.

Tell-tale. An inverted compass fixed in a cabin. Also (general) any recording device: usually automatic: e.g. a turnstile, an organ bellows-indicator, etc.

Telling. *That's telling*, said in reply to a question that one ought not, or that one does not wish, to answer.

Tell-truth. A plain speaker, one who does not mince matters (1630).

Tempest. Drum is a riotous assembly of fashionable people, of both sexes, at a private house, consisting of some hundreds; not unaptly styled a drum, from the noise and emptiness of the entertainment; there are also drum-major, rout, *tempest*, and hurricane, differing only in degrees of multitude and uproar (*Smollett*). See Tea cup.

Temple of Bacchus. Merry-making after getting a liceat. *Oxf. Univ. Cant* (*Grose*).

Temple-pickling. 'The Pumping of Bailives, Bumms, Setters, Pickpockets, etc.' (*B. E.*)

Tenant at will. One whose wife usually fetches him from the ale-house (*Grose*).

Tenant for life. A married man; i.e. possessed of a woman for life (*Grose*).

Tenant-in-tail. See Tail.

Ten Bones (or Commandments). The ten fingers: spec. of a woman. Also *by these ten bones!* (once a common oath: in punning reference to the Mosaic Decalogue) (1485).

Tench. 1. A prison; a peni(*tenti*)ary. At one time applied to the Clerkenwell House of Detention, now the Central Depôt of the Parcels Post.

Tender. *Tender Parnel.* 1. A mistress; also *parnel*, *pernel*. Hence, 2. a very nicely educated creature, apt to catch cold upon the least blast of wind (*B. E.*). *As tender as Parnell, who broke her finger in a posset drink* (*Grose*). Also *as tender as a chicken* (1362).

Tenderfoot. A new comer: as adj., raw, inexperienced (1875).

Ten-forty. A five per cent. bond issued in 1864 by the U.S. Government, redeemable at any time after ten years and payable in forty years (*Century*).

Ten-in-the-Hundred. A usurer, a sixty-per-cent. (q.v.). [*Nares*: from their commonly exacting such interest for their money, before the legal limitation to five] (1594).

Tenner. 1. A ten pound note, £10: cf. Fiver. 2. Ten years' imprisonment.

Tenpence. *Only tenpence in the shilling*, a description of weak intellect. Also *tenpenny*, in contempt (1607).

Tenterbelly. A glutton, one who distends his belly by gross feeding (1621).

Tenterhooks. *On tenterhooks* (or *tenters*), in suspense, anxious, on the rack (or stretch) (1607).

Tentoes. See Bayard.

Tercel-gentle. A knight or gentleman of a good estate; also any rich man (*B. E.*). Also *Tassel-gentle* [*Tercel*, (*Cotgrave* and *Randle Holmes*), the male of the peregrine falcon]. Hence *falcon 'gainst tercel* (or *as tercel*), one's as good as t'other.

Termer. A visitor to London at term time; specifically one whose object was intrigue, knavery, or sport. [The law terms marked the fashionable seasons.] Also *term-trotter* (1608).

Terræ filius. 1. A person of mean or obscure birth. 2. A scholar whose special duty was to make satirical speeches at the *Encænia*: full advantage being ever taken of his license to satirize, and generally rip up, authority (1669).

Terra firma. An estate in land (1696).

Terrible Boy. See Roaring boy (1609).

Tertian (Aberdeen Univ.). A student of the third year.

Tester (or **Teston**). 1. A silver coin: orig. (*a*) the silver currency of Louis XII. of France (bearing the head of that prince, and worth (*Cotgrave*) 18d. sterling); (*b*) the brass silvered shilling of Henry VIII. (worth, temp. Ed. VI., 9d.); and (*c*) the Elizabeth sixpence. Hence, 2. a sixpence (*Grose*): see Tizzy. As verb, to fee (1577).

Teviss. A shilling: see Rhino.

Texas. The upper (or third) deck of a Mississippi steamboat. Hence *texas-tender*, a waiter serving on the texas (1875).

Thames. *Setting the Thames on fire*, a simile for the impossible (1363).

Tharborough. See Thirdborough.

Thary. To speak.

That. *At that*, a pleonastic intensive (1855).

Thatch. Hair: spec. the hair of the head (1609).

Thatched-head. An Irishman: in contempt. [*Nares*: one wearing the hair matted together, as the native Irish in times past.] (1612).

Thatch-gallows. A worthless fellow (*Grose*).

Theg (or **Teaich**) **gen.** Eight shillings; *theg* (or *teaitch*) *yanneps*, eightpence.

There. Colloquial for smart (q.v.): e.g. *all there*, alert, first-rate, up to the mark, nothing wanting: also *to get there* (1) to achieve; and (2) to make one's jack (q.v.): also *to get there with both feet* (1821).

Theta. *To mark with Theta*, to condemn to death. [The first letter (the unlucky letter) of Gr. θάνατος = death.]

Thick. 1. Generic for obtuseness: e.g. as subs., stupid fellow, a blockhead: also thick-head, thick-skull, thick-pate, thick-sconce, thick-skin, thick-wits, etc.; the corresponding adjectival forms, dull, stupid, hidebound (1582). 2. Porter: ironically said to be a decoction of brewers' aprons. 3. Cocoa. As adj. (1) intimate or (Scots) chief: e.g. *As thick as thieves, as thick as inkle-weavers*, q.v. (1525). As adv., out of the common, extraordinary, solid: a general intensive; hence *to lay it on thick*, to exaggerate, to surfeit with praise: also *to lay it on with a trowel*: cf. Wide; *got 'em thick*, very drunk; see Screwed; *a bit thick*, rather indecent (1563). *Through thick and thin*, thoroughly, steadily, at all costs; hence *thick-and-thin*, sincere, out-and-out (q.v.). [Orig. over rough or smooth places; i.e. through coppice or sparse land.] (1359).

Thicker (Harrow). Thucydides: the translation of which is set in the Upper School.

Thicklips. A negro. Whence *thick-lipped* (1593).

Thick-'un. A sovereign; 20s.: also a crown piece; 5s. Hence *to smash* (change) or *blue a thick 'un* (1863).

Thief. 1. A term of reproach: not necessarily a robber: thus (*Grose*) you are a murderer and a *thief*, you have killed a baboon and stolen his face; vulgar abuse (1440). 2. A mushroom growth on a burning wick which makes the candle gutter, a waster (1598): Bishop (*Grose*). 3. A bramble: cf. bramble, country lawyer, keeping in mind the A.S. *thefethorn*, bramble. 4. Synonyms for thief (a person guilty of larceny, robbery, swindling, or crookedness of any kind: the following list runs up and down the whole gamut of roguery). Aaron, abacter, abaddon, abandanad, abraham-cove, ack-man, ack-pirate, acquisitive cove, Adam, Adam Filer, adept, affidavit-man, afflicke, alsatian, ambidexter, amuser, anabaptist, angler, angling-cove, arch-cove, arch-dell, arch-doxy (*Grose*), arch gonnof, arch-rogue, area-sneak, ark-pirate, ark-ruff, artful-dodger, autem-diver, avoirdupois-man. Babe, back-jumper, back-stall, badger, baggage-smasher, baldover, bank-sneak, barabbas, barnacle, baster, beak, beaker-hauler, beaker-hunter, bearer-up, beau-trap (*Grose*), bene-feaker, bene-gybe, bester, bilk (*Sheridan*), bilker, Billy Buzman, billy-fencer, bird-lime, bite, bit-faker, bit-make, black-leg, blasted-fellow, bleating-cull, blowed-in-the-glass-stiff (American tramps'), bludger, bludget, blue-pigeon flyer, bluey-hunter, bob, bobby-twister, bonnet, boodler, bookkeeper, bouncer, boung-nipper, bowman, bridle-cull, brief-snatcher, broad cove, broadsman, bubber, bubble, bubbler, budge, buffer, buffer-napper, bugger, bug-hunter, bulk, bulk-and-file, bull-trap, bully-buck, bully-cock, bunco-steerer, bunco-man, bung, bung-napper, bunter, burner, buster, buttock-and-file, button, buttoner, buz-bloke, buz-cove, buz-faker, buzman, buzzer, buzlock. Canter (canting crew, generic for thieves, rogues, and beggars), Captain Sharp, carrier: cat-and-kitten nipper, chariot-buzzer, charley-pitcher, chaunting-cove, chive or (chiff) thief, chouse, chouser, christener, circling-boy, clank-napper, clicker, clink-rigger, cloak-twitcher, clouter, cloy, cloyer, cly-filcher, cogger, collector, colt, cork, conveyancer, conveyor, coney-catcher, counterfeit-crank, cover, coverer, crack, cracksman, crony, crook, cross-bite, cross-biter, cross-famker, crib-cracker, cross, cross-cove, crossman, cross-mollisher, crow, cruiser, cunning-man, curtall, cut-purse, cutter. Damber (*Grose*), damned soul, dancer, darkman's budge, dead-nap, deeker, deep-one, diddler, dimber-damber (*Grose*), ding-boy, dinger, dip, dipper, dipping-bloke. dive, diver, dog-buffer, dragsman, drag-sneak, draw-latch, drop-cove, dropper, dromedary, drummer, drunken tinker, dubber, dudder, duffer, dummerer, dummy-hunter, dunaker. Eriff, eaves-dropper (*Grose*). Facer, fagger, family (generic), father, fawney-rigger, fence, fencing-cully, ferret, fiddle, fidlam-bens, figger, filcher, filching-cove, filching-mort, file, finder, finger-smith, fire-prigger, fish-hook, flash-cove, flashman (*Grose*), flash-gentry (generic), flat-catcher, fleecer, flimper, flying-cove, fobber, fogle-hunter, foist, foot-pad, fore-beggar, fork, forker, frater, free-booker, free-booter, freshwater-warmer, frisker, funker. Gagger, gallows-bird, gambler (*Grose*), garreteer, garrotter, geach, gentleman of the road, gentleman's master, gentry (generic), gilt, gin-spinner, glasier, gleaner, glimmerer, gold-dropper, gonnof, goodfellow, grafter, Greek, groaner, gun, gutter-prowler. Hawk, heaver, hedge-creeper, highpad, high-tober (or toby), hoist, hoister (or hoyster), hook, hooker, hoveller, Hugh Prowler. Ingler, innocent, int, Irish toyle (*B. E.*). Jack-in-a-box, Janus-mug, jarkman, jerry-sneak, Jew, jilter, jingler, jockey, jumper. Ken-cracker, ken-miller, kiddy (*Grose*), kiddy-nipper, kidsman, kinchin-cove, kite, kirk-buzzer, kitchener, klep, knap, knight, knight of the road, knight of St. Nicholas, knowing one, knuck, knuckler. Ladrone, lag, landloper, landlubber, landpirate, landshark, lark, latch-drawer, leatherhead, leg, legger, lift, lifter, little-sneaksman, lob-crawler, lob-sneak, lully-prigger, lumberer, lumper. Mace-cove, magsman (*Mayhew*, *Matsell*, *Henley*), maker, mill-ben, money-dropper, mounter, mocher. Nabber, nabbler, nailer, napper, nasty-man, natty-lad, needle, needle-point, Newgate-bird (or nightingale), Newmarket-heath commissioner, nibbler, nibbling-cull, nicker,[1] nick-pot, nickum, night-bird (cap, hawk, hunter, poacher, snap, trader or walker), nigler (a sweater, nimmer, nip, nipping Christian, nobbler, nob-pitcher, nose (*Grose*). Office-sneak, old bird (or hand), olli compolli, ostler, out-and-outer, outrider. Pad, pad-borrower, padder, paddist, palmer, panel dodger, panel-thief, pannyman, parlour-jumper, pea-rigger, pea-man, peter (a safe thief), peter-biter, peter-claimer, peter-hunter, peterman, picaro, picaroon, picker, picker-up, pickereer, pick-penny, pick-pocket, pie-man, pigeon, pinch-gloak, pitch-fingers, poacher, pocket-book dropper, poulterer, practitioner, prig, prigger, prigman, Prince Prig, prinado, prowler (or Hugh Prowler), propnailer, pudding-snammer, puller-up, purple dromedary, puffer, puggard, push (generic), pushing tout. Quarrel picker, queer bail (or bird), queer-bit-maker, queer bluffer, queer cole fencer, queer cole maker, queer plunger, queer-prancer, queer shover. Ramper (ramp, or rampsman), ranger, rank-rider, rapparee, rascal (*Grose*), reader-hunter, reader-merchant, repeater and revolver (American tramps'), resurrectionist, ring-dropper, ring-faller, river-rat, road-agent, roberd's man (or knave), rob-thief, rogue, rook, rover, royal scamp, royal foot-scamp, rumbler, runner, running glasier, running-snavel. Saint Peter's son, St Nicholas's clerk, St Nicholas's clergyman, salter, satyr (cattle thief), sawny-hunter, scamp, scampsman, screwsman, scuffle-hunter, setter, shark, sharp, sharper, shaver, sheep-biter, sheep-napper, sheep-shearer, she-napper, shifter, shoful-pitcher, shop-bouncer, shop-lift, shop-lifter, shoulderer, shoulder-sham, shover, shark, shutter-racket worker, shyce, shyster, silk-snatcher, silver cooper, skylarker, slink, smasher, smugger, snabbler, snaffle, snaffler, snaggler, snakesman, snammer, snap, snapper, snapper-up, snatch-cly, snatcher, sneak, sneak-thief, sneaking-budge, sneaksman, sneck-drawer, sneeze-lurker, snick-fudger, snide-pitcher, snow-dropper, snow-gatherer, snudge, soaper, sourplanter, son of St Peter, spice-gloak, stall (or stale), stallsman, stander-up, standing-budge, stook-hauler, sutler, swagsman, sweetener, swigman, swimmer, swindler. Tail-buzzer, thimble-rigger, thimble-twister, till-sneak, tinny-hunter, toby-gill, toby-man, tool, tooler, top-sawyer, tosher, toy-getter, tradesman, traveller, tripper-up, Tyburn-blossom. Unicorn, unregenerate, upright-man. Vamper, village bustler, voucher. Walking poulterer, watchmaker, waterpad, water-sneak, water-sneaksman, welcher, wheedle, whipster, whispering dudder, whyo, wild rogue, wipe-drawer, workman, wrong 'un, ziff.

Thief-takers. Fellows who associate with all kinds of villains, in order to betray them, when they have committed any of those crimes which entitle the persons taking them to a handsome reward, called blood money. It is the business of these thief-takers to furnish subjects for a handsome execution at the end of every sessions (*Grose*). Also, who make a trade of helping people (for a gratuity) to their lost goods, and sometimes for interest or envy snapping the rogues themselves; being usually in fee with them and acquainted with their haunts (*B. E.*).

Thieves. *Thieves' Latin.* The cant terms and slang used by thieves; St Giles' Greek, Pedlar's French (q.v.) etc. (1855). *The Murdering Thieves*, the Military Train; the title from 1857 to 1860 of The Army Service Corps. Other nicknames (also derived from the initials) are The London Thieving Corps (1855-57); The Moke Train (1857-60), etc. *Safe as a thief in a mill*, very secure (1690).

Thieving-irons. Scissors.

Thimble. A watch; a yack (q.v.): hence *thimble-twister*, a watch thief; *thimble and slang*, watch and chain (1785). *Knight of the thimble*, a tailor (1838).

Thimbled. Arrested, laid by the heels (*Bee*). *Thimble and bodkin army*, the Parliamentary Army: in contempt. The nobles were profuse in their contributions of plate for the service of the King at Oxford, while on the parliamentary side the subscriptions of silver offerings included even such little personal articles as those that suggested the term *the Thimble and Bodkin army* (*Dowell*).

Thimbleful. A small quantity; as much as may be contained in a thimble: spec. a dram of spirits (1690).

Thimble-pie. Rapping the head with a thimbled finger.

Thimble-rig. A sharping trick: a pea placed on a table is quickly covered, in irregular succession, by three small cups, the operator betting against the discovery of the pea; as this is easily palmed a successful guess is at the option of the sharper, and only allowed for the due landing of the victim. Hence such derivatives as *thimble-rig* (or *-man*), *thimble-rigging*, and as verb (1835).

Thin. One or two modern usages of *thin* verge on the colloquial: e.g. a *thin* (poor) *excuse*; a *thin* (gutless) *play*; a *thin* (trashy) *novel*; *too thin* (or T. T.), frivolous, inadequate, insufficient to deceive, etc. Also (proverbial), As *thin* as a lath; as *thin* as the last run of shad (1601).

Thin Red Line (The). The Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders): of the 2nd battalion, late The 93rd Foot.

Thing. 1. In familiar usage (admiration, pity, scorn, or endearment), a living creature, male or female: e.g. *sweet thing* (an old endearment); *a poor thing* (a pitiful object); *you thing*; a *thing of a man* (contemptuously): also *a thing to thank God on* (*Shakespeare*); *a mere thing* in one's hands, a puppet, a nonentity; *all that sort of thing*, hardly worth notice, no class (q.v.), etc., etc. (1440). 2. In pl., (*a*) belongings, sticks (q.v.), traps (q.v.); and (*b*) clothes: as in the phrase, Put on your things (1383). *The thing.* 1. What is right, proper, becoming, fashionable, etc. (1759). 2. In pl., base coin. See Know, Soft, Handsome, and Good thing.

Thingumbob. 1. Used for the proper name of a person or thing, (*a*) when forgotten; or (*b*) when it is not desired to specifically name. Variants are numerous: e.g. *thingumajig*, *thingum*, *thingummy*, *thingamy*, *thingumbee*, *thing-a-merry*, *thingummite*, *thingomightum* (1751).

Thin-guts. A starveling (1631).

Think. See Penny, Small Beer.

Thin-'un. A half sovereign, 10s.; cf. thick-'un.

Thirding. A custom practised at the Universities, where two-thirds of the original price allowed by the upholsterers to the students for household goods returned to them within the year (*Gradus ad Cantab.*, 1803).

Thirteen (or **Thirteener**). An Irish shilling, 13d.: also *thirteen* (1837).

Thirteen Clean Shirts. Three months' imprisonment.

Thirteen-pence Halfpenny. Hangman's wages (1602).

Thirty-pound Knight. A creation of James I. [*Nares*: He created the order of baronet, which he disposed of for a sum of money; and it seems that he sold common knighthood as low as thirty pounds, or at least it was so reported (1605).

Thoke (Winchester College and prov.). Rest: spec. lying in bed. Hence, as verb, to lie in bed late. *Thokester*, an idler; *thoky* (or *thokish*), idle. Also *to thoke upon*, to anticipate with pleasure: e.g. I'm *thoking* on next week; what a *thoke* it will be, with a Leave-out day, a hatch-*thoke*, and a half remedy (*Wrench*).

Thomas Courteous. A churl [*Tyndale*, Works, ii. 182].

Thornback. An old maid; also a well-known fish, said to be exceedingly provocative (*B. E.*).

Thorns. *To be* (or *sit*) *upon thorns*, to be uneasy, anxious, impatient (1555).

Thorough Churchman. A person who goes in at one door of a church, and out at the other, without stopping (*Grose*).

Thorough-cough. Coughing and breaking wind backwards at the same time (*B. E.*).

Thorough-go-nimble. An attack of the squitters (q.v.), a back-door trot (q.v.). Also jerry-go-nimble (q.v.) (1694).

Thorough-passage. In at one ear, and out at t'other (*B. E.*).

Thorough-stitch. See Through-stitch.

Thousand. *Another thousand a year*, a pledge in drinking: also *another ten thousand a year*—any sum indeed. See Bricks, and Upper Ten.

Thrapple. The throat: also *thropple*: see Gutter-alley.

Thread. *To spin a good thread*, to succeed.

Thread-and-thrum. Everything, all: even to the fringe of threads left on the loom when the web has been removed (1592).

Threadneedle St. See Old Lady.

Thread-paper. See Hop-pole.

Three. *One* (or *two's*) *company—three's none*, a suggestion to a second or third party that 'their room is preferred before their company' (1430). *Cube of Three*, 'the great health now is, The Cube of Three, which is the number 27, i.e. the number of the protesting lords' (*Hearne*). *Three times three*, three cheers, thrice repeated (1850). See Sheet.

Three Balls. *The sign of the three balls* (*brass*, *golden* or *blue balls*), a pawnbroker's: see Uncle (1748).

Three-by-nine Smile. A broad laugh (? a pun on 'benign').

Three-cornered Scraper. A cocked hat.

Three-decker. (1) A man-of-war carrying guns on three decks: whence (2) a piece of furniture, pulpit, etc., in three tiers (in a pulpit the clerk's place was at the bottom, the reading-desk on the second stage, and the pulpit highest of all); (3) a three-volume novel, or three-act play; and (4) a coat having three capes round the shoulders (1814).

Three-draws-and-a-spit. A cigarette.

Three F's (The). The demands of the Irish Land League: Free Sale, Fixity of Tenure, and Fair Rent: practically conceded by Mr Gladstone's Land Act (1881).

Three-legged Stool. *To comb one's head with a three-legged stool* (or *joint-stool*), a humorous threat of punishment.

Three Trees (The). The gallows (1582). Also *three-legged stool; three-cornered tree; three-legged mare* (also *two-legged mare,* and *mare with three legs*), *the Tyburn tree,* and *triple tree*: see Nubbing-cheat. [Executions at Tyburn were abandoned in 1783, and thenceforward (in London) till 1868 took place in front of Newgate].

Three-out. See Out.

Three-penny (or **Three-half-penny**). Common, vulgar, in little esteem, of little worth: cf. 'three-inch fool' (*Shakespeare,* 'Tam. Shrew,' IV. i.). Hence *three-penny planet,* an unpropitious augury; *three-half-penny-horse-loaf* (in contempt of an undersized person) (1555).

Three-ply. A Mormon having three wives.

Three-quarters of a Peck. The neck: rhyming slang: amongst experts *three quarters,* and written '¾.'

Three Stride Business. Three strides between each hurdle: the crack style.

Three R's (The). Reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic; a jesting toast proposed by Sir William Curtis, Lord Mayor of London of 1795, at a dinner given by the Board of Education.

Three Tens (The). The 1st battalion East Lancashire Regiment, late The 30th Foot. Also The Triple X's.

Three Sheets. See Sheets.

Threeswins. Threepence.

Three-threads (or **thirds**). Half common ale, and the rest stout or double beer (*B. E.*); three-thirds, and denoted a draught, once popular, made up of a third each of ale, beer, and 'two-penny,' in contradistinction to 'half-and-half'; this beverage was superseded in 1722 by the very similar porter or 'entire' (*Chambers*).

Three-up. A gambling game. Three half-pennies are skied to a call: if they do not fall alike, the cry is void, and the operation is repeated. When the three coins come off (i.e. fall alike), bets are decided. If two play, it is 'up for up,' i.e. they toss and cry alternately: if three or more join in, it is a school, and one, a 'pieman,' cries to the halfpence of the others until he loses, when the winner of the toss becomes 'pieman' in turn.

Three X's (The). The 1st battalion East Lancashire Regiment, late The 30th Foot.

Threp (Thrip, or **Thrups).** Threepence (1696).

Thresher. *Captain Thresher,* in 1806 an Irish Catholic organization was formed to resist the payment of tithes: threats and warnings were sent out signed 'Captain Thresher.'

Throat. *Throat* occurs in a few colloquialisms: e.g. *To lie in one's throat,* to lie flatly: an expression of extreme indignation; *to cut one another's throats,* to engage in cut-throat (q.v.) competition or conduct ruinous to either; *to cut one's own throat* (or *to cut the throat of*), to ruin oneself, to shipwreck chances or interests; *to have one's throat lined,* to be void of taste; to wish for *a throat a mile long and a palate at every inch of it,* a modern echo of Rabelais: see Bone, Stick (1637).

Throttle (or **Thropple**). To strangle (*Grose*).

Through. Colloquialisms range themselves under *Through* as follows: *To be through,* (1) to have finished: as of a meal, 'Are you through?' (2) to be acquitted (old thieves': *Grose*); (3) to complete a bargain; *to have been through the mill,* to have learned by experience; also see Alphabet, Thick, Water, and other nouns.

Throughshot. Spendthrift: e.g. *a through shot* sort of fellow.

Through-stitch. Thorough, complete, 'over shoes, over boots' (*B. E.*), to stick at nothing (*Grose*): a tailor's expression. Hence, *to go through stitch* (1611).

Throw. Among slang and colloquial usages may be enumerated: *To throw a levant,* to make off: see Bunk; *to throw a sop to Cerberus* (see Sop); *to throw cold water,* to discourage, to damp; *to throw dust* (or *pepper*) *in the eyes,* to mislead, to dupe; *to throw off,* (1) to do or talk offhandedly: spec. to convey unpleasant allusions under a mask of pleasantry (*Grose*); (2) to brag of past booty, (thieves': *Grose*); (3) to discard; and (4) to start the pack (fox-hunters'); *to throw oneself into,* to do zealously; *to throw out,* to expel with violence; *to throw over*, to desert; *to throw overboard*, to abandon; to *throw together*, (1) to do hastily, and (2) to bring together frequently: as 'their marriage came about through being *thrown* much *together*'; *to throw up*, to resign, to desist, to chuck up (q.v.); *to throw up the sponge* (see Sponge); *to throw about*, to seek an opportunity, to try expedients; *to throw back*, to revert; *to throw in for*, to enter: as for a race; *to throw to the dogs*, to put aside as valueless; *to throw off the belt*, to stop; *to have a throw at*, to attack; *to throw snot about*, to weep; *to throw* (or *throw down*) *a paper* (*lesson, examination*, etc.), to floor (q.v.); *to throw the feet*, to beg, hustle, or do anything that involves much action.

Throw-back. A set-back, a reversion; also *to throw back*, to revert to type.

Thrum. To play on any instrument stringed with wire, to strum. Hence *thrummer* (1550). As subs., in pl., threepence, threps, (q.v.): see Rhino. Also *thrumbuskins* and *thrummop*. *Thread and thrum*, see Thread.

Thrum-cap. Rough headgear (1694).

Thug. 1. A nickname for a member of the native American party; 2. a cut-throat ruffian.

Thumb. To drain a glass upon the thumb-nail: the glass must be emptied so that there remains only a drop that will not run off the nail: see Supernaculum. Among colloquial phrases are: *A thumb under the girdle*, an indication of gravity or sadness; *rule of thumb* (q.v.); *all his fingers are thumbs* (of a clumsy person: also *thumbless*); *to bite the thumb* (see Bite); *under one's thumb*, under complete control, subservient; *finger and thumb*, inseparable. Further, a *well-thumbed book*, a rough-handled book; one thumbed out of respectability; *thumb-marked*, bearing unmistakable traces of an individual artist, reader, performer, etc. Also proverbial. If you bite your *thumb* there's hell to pay.

Thumber. (1) A sandwich; and (2) a slice of bread and meat carved and eaten between finger and thumb.

Thumbing. A Nottingham phrase, used to describe that species of intimidation practised by masters on their servants: when the latter are compelled to vote as their employers please, under pain of losing their situations (*Halliwell*).

Thump. A heavy blow with club, fist, or anything that resounds: also as verb (*Grose*). [*Century*: Not found in Middle English; apparently a variant of *dump*.] Hence *thumper*. Also, This is better than a *thump* on the back with a stone (*Grose*: said on giving a drink of good liquor on a cold morning); 'Thatch, thistle, thunder, and *thump*' (*Grose*: words to the Irish, like the Shibboleth of the Hebrews) (1596).

Thumper (**Thumping**, etc.). 1. Anything impressive; *thumping*, unusually large, heavy, etc. (*Grose*) (1709). 2. In pl., dominoes.

Thumpkin. A barn filled with hay.

Thunder! A mild oath: also *thunderation! thunder-and-lightning!* and *thunder-and-turf*! *By thunder*, By God, and the Devil, and what comes between. *To collar* (or *steal*) *one's thunder*, to appropriate another's work, ideas, etc.

Thunderbomb (**H.M.S.**). An imaginary ship of enormous dimensions.

Thunderer (**The**). *The Times* newspaper.

Thundering. A strong intensive: great, large, tremendous, etc. (1597).

Thunder-mug. A chamber-pot.

Thusness. *Why this thusness?* A pleonastic, Why?

Thwack. To beat with a stick or cudgel (*B. E.*), a great blow with a stick across the shoulders (*Grose*); *thick thwack*, blow after blow (1574).

Thwacker. Anything very much out of the common; *thwacking*, tremendous, great (1620).

Tib. 1. A woman: generic (cf. Tom, man), a usage that long lingered; hence, 2. a term of endearment: also a calf; and, 3. contemptuously, a wanton. *Tib of the buttery*, goose (sometimes, an endearment) (1582). 4. The *anus*. 5. A bit: hence *tib fo occabot*, a bit of tobacco. *To tib out* (Charterhouse), to go beyond bounds (1854).

Tib-of-the-Buttery (or **Tib**). A goose (1567).

Tibb's-eve. An indefinite date (*Grose*: 'Irish' . . . 'St Tibb's evening, the evening of the last day or day of judgment; as He will pay you on St Tibb's eve'): see Queen Dick.

Tibby. 1. A cat. 2. The head; *to drop on one's tibby*, to take unawares.

Tichborne's Own. The 6th Dragoon Guards (Carabineers): *c.* 1871-74, at the time of the Tichborne trial, Sir Roger Tichborne having (1849) served in the regiment.

Tick (or **Ticket**). A word regarded as slang to-day (or verging thereon) that can boast of considerable (and, indeed, honourable) antiquity: an abbreviation of ticket, a tradesman's bill, formerly written on slips of paper or cards. Hence *tick* (or *ticket*), credit, a debt; as verb, to buy or take on trust, to run a score; *to tick up* (or *to have the run of the ticket*), to put to account, to run in debt (Fr., *avoir l'ardoise*=to slate); *what's the ticket?* what's the price (Fr., *quelle est le marché du bœuf gras?*) (1609). *To tick and toy*, to dally, to wanton (1550).

Ticker. 1. A watch; also *tick*: Fr., *tocante* (1789). 2. (Stock Exchange and Post Office). An automatic tape-machine. 3. An ignoramus who talks for talking's sake. 4. A crib-biting horse (1802).

Ticket. 1. An account, a score: now tick (q.v.) 2. A pass, a licence: also *tickrum* (*B.E.*): cf. approximation to Fr., *étiquette*: hence 3. a visiting card: whence (from 2 and 3) *the ticket*, the correct thing; *that's the ticket*, that's the thing, that's all right: also *that's the ticket for soup*, you've got it —be off! (1611). 4. (*a*) A printed list of candidates in an election; (*b*) the candidates; and (*c*) a policy; a platform (q.v.); whence *straight ticket*, the party nominations, representing the official programme; *split ticket*, a divided policy, a ticket containing the names of candidates representing several differing interests or divisions; *scratched-ticket*, a list of candidates from which names have been erased; *mixed ticket*, a list in which the nominations of different interests or parties have been blended; *to run ahead of the* (or *one's*) *ticket*, to receive a larger vote than the average vote polled by one's associates on the same electoral ticket. Similarly *to run behind the ticket* is to receive less than such an average vote. *A hard ticket*, an unscrupulous man; a hard nut to crack. *To work the ticket*, to procure discharge by being pronounced medically unfit.

Tickle. See Ticklish. As verb (1) to chastise: frequently (as in *to tickle one's tail*) a humorous threat of punishment; hence *tickletail* (*tickletoby*, or *tickler*), (*a*) a schoolmaster's rod; (*b*) a schoolmaster; (*c*) a whip or strap; (*d*) a small weapon carried on the person: a knife or pistol (1598); (2) to bribe, to fee: also *to tickle one's palm* (or *hand*).

Tickle-brain. 1. Strong drink; hence, 2. a taverner: also *tickle-pitcher*, a tosspot (1598).

Tickler. 1. A puzzler: anything difficult or perplexing: also (*Halliwell*) a shrewd cunning person. 2. A small pocket-ledger; also a banker's register: of bills (of exchange) payable and receivable, and daily cash balances. 3. A dram: also (American) a half pint flask of spirits (1840). 4. A small poker: used to save a better one: cf. Curate. 5. A bowie knife (1843). 6. See Tickle.

Tickle-pitcher. See Tickle-brain.

Tickle-text. A parson: see Bible-pounder.

Tiddipol. An overdressed fat young woman in humble life (*Halliwell*).

Tiddle. To advance by slow degrees, or small motions: e.g. *to tiddle* a ball, a marble, a wheelbarrow, etc. *Tiddling*, getting on bit by bit: also to potter, to fidget (1748).

Tiddlies. *To run tiddlies*, to run over unsafe ice.

Tiddlywink. An unlicensed house: a pawnbroker's (also *leaving-shop*, q.v.), a beershop, a brothel, etc. As verb, to spend more than prudence or custom will sanction.

Tidy. An antimacassar. As adj., considerable, pretty large, fine, healthy, comfortable, important, etc. (1360). As verb, to put (or place) in order, to make neat: usually *to tidy up*, *tidy*, neat (*Grose*) has long been recognised (1853).

Tie. To marry, to hitch (q.v.), to splice (q.v.): hence *a knot tied with the tongue that cannot be untied with the teeth*, matrimony (1619). Also phrases and colloquialisms: *To tie one's hair* (or *wool*), to puzzle (tailors');

to tie up, (1) to forswear: e.g. *to tie up prigging*, to lead an honest life (thieves'); and (2) to knock out (pugilists'); *tied up*, (1) finished, settled; (2) costive. See Apron-strings, Ride, Saint.

Tie-up. An obstruction, a blockade, a closure: e.g. a strike, a blocked bill, etc.

Tiff. 1. Small beer, swipes (q.v.). Hence, a moderate draught: *a tiff of punch*, a small bowl of punch; as verb, to drink: *tiffing*, eating and drinking out of meal time (*Grose*): also *tiffin* (Anglo-Indian), a meal between breakfast and dinner (1654). 2. A slight quarrel: also as verb (*a*) to have words, and (*b*) to go peevishly; whilst *tiffy* (or *tiffish*) petulant, easily riled (q.v.); *tiffing*, disputing or falling out (1700).

Tiffity-taffetty Girl (or **Taffeta-punk**). A courtesan. [Tiffany. Epiphany: whence tiffany silk, a silk for holiday wear: a gauze-like material. *Taffeta* also, a transparent silk. Hence, *tiffity-taffety girl*, one who discloses almost as much as she dissembles: cf. Loose-bodied gown; *tiff*, to deck, to array; *tiffany* (or *taffety*), wanton, soft, yielding (1598).

Tiger. A raff. *Tigrish*, dissolute. 1. A smart-liveried boy-groom; a show servant: whence (loosely) a man's out-door servant in contradistinction to a page, a ladies' attendant (1827). 2. An intensive form of applause; an addition thought to embellish the traditional three cheers: whence *three cheers and a tiger*, three cheers wound up by a growl, screech, or howl (new in 1842). 3. Streaky bacon. *To fight the tiger*, to gamble with professionals; also (loosely) to play cards. Hence *tiger-hunter*, a gambler. See Bengal Tigers.

Tigerkin. A cat (1849).

Tight. In pl., closely fitting garments; e.g. (1) small clothes (q.v.); and (2) a garment fitting skin-tight to the legs or the whole body, either to display the form or for freedom of movement (chiefly theatrical). As adj., 1. generic for merit; thus *a tight* (strong or active) *lad*; *a tight* (lively or pretty) *wench*; *a tight* (an adroit) *question*; *a tight* (well-built) *ship*; *a tight* (skilful) *workman*; *a tight* (pleasant) *island*, etc.: again, *all tight*, in good health (or form); *neat and tight*, in good trim (1280). 2. Close, stingy, dear, hard-up; hence *a tight* (straitened) *market*; *tight* (scarce) *money*; *a tight* (hard) *bargain*; *a tight* (stingy) *man*: cf. Easy: hence *to tighten*, to become dear (of money). 3. Severe, hard, difficult: e.g. *a tight* (a straining) *pull*; *a tight* (barely possible) *squeeze*; *a tight* (awkward) *position* (*corner*, *place*, etc.); *a tight* (hacking) *cough*. 4. Drunk; full of liquor: see Screwed (1867). 5. (Winchester College). Fast, hard; a *tight* bowler, etc.: as superlative adverb now only used in *tight*-junior; *tight-snob*, *tight-rot*, and other such uses are obsolete. Blow me tight: see Blow.

Tight-cravat. The hangman's noose: see Horse-collar.

Tightener. A hearty meal: cf. *Kaffir's tightener*. *To do a tightener*, to eat heartily.

Tight-fit (Vermont Univ.). A good joke: the teller is said to be hard up.

Tike (or **Tyke**). 1. A dog! spec. a cur (a dog with a docked tail: see Curtail); a mongrel. Hence, 2. a clodhopper, a churl, a mean snarling rascal: spec. a Yorkshireman (q.v.) (1363).

Tilbury. Sixpence, 6d.; see Rhino.

Tile. A hat: spec. a tall silk-hat, or chimney-pot (q.v.): see Golgotha. *Tile-frisking*, stealing hats from halls and lobbies (*Grose*). *A tile loose*, silly, crazy. *On the tiles*, on the loose, caterwauling.

Till-sneak. A thief whose speciality is robbing shop-tills.

Tilly. *Easy as tilly*, very easy.

Tilly-vally. Pish! Nonsense! Bosh! (1529).

Tilter. A sword: also *to tilt*, to fight with rapiers (*B. E.*).

Timber. 1. The stocks. 2. In pl., the legs: *Shiver* (or *dash*) *my timbers!* (a mock oath), plague take my wooden legs: see Dash; also *timber toes*, (*a*) a wooden-legged man; (*b*) a person wearing clogs (East End). 3. A clubbing at the hands of the toughs of a town unfriendly to tramps.

Timber-mare. See Horse.

Timber-merchant. A street match-seller, a spunk-fencer (q.v.).

Timbered. *Well* (or *clean*) *timbered*, well made; *timber*, strength might. Also, *How's he timbered?* How's he built? *not timbered up to my weight*, not my style.

Timber-taster. A dockyard official who examines timber and decides on quality and fitness.

Timber-tuned. Heavy-fingered, wooden.

Timber-yard. A wicket.

Timbrell. The pillory (1593).

Timdoodle. A silly fellow (*Halliwell*).

Time. Cabdrivers to express 9s. 9d. say that 'it is a quarter to ten'; if 3s. 6d., half-past three; if 11s. 9d., a quarter to twelve; they can hardly have originated a system which has been in existence as long as the adage, 'Time is money'; they have, however, the full use of the arrangement, which is perhaps the simplest on record. *The time of day*, (1) the immediate trick, the latest dodge, the absolute aspect of affairs; thus, *to put up to the time of day*, to initiate; *to know the time of day*, to be fully informed, on the spot (q.v.), to know what's o'clock (q.v.); *that's the time of day*, 'That's how we does it!' (1687); (2) A knock-out blow; (3) A good joke; (4) a salutation, a greeting: Good morning, etc. (1609). *To do* (or *serve*) *time*, to go to prison; hence *timer*, a convict: e.g. *first*, *second*, and *third timer*, a prisoner serving for a first, second, or third stretch. *To knock out of time*, to hit out, so to punish an opponent that he cannot come up to the call of time. *On time* (1) punctual; and (2) abreast of things. *In good time*, Just so! Well and good! Fr., *a la bonne heure* (1603). See Good time, High old time.

Timothy Tearcat. See Tear.

Tim-whisky (Timmy-whiskey or Whiskey). A light one-horse chaise without a hood (*Grose*).

Tin. Money; generic: see Rhino. Hence *to tin out*, to pay (1836).

Tin-bellies. The 1st and 2nd Life Guards: from the cuirass.

Tinclad. A gunboat: spec. a musket-proof gunboat such as were used during the civil war on the western rivers: the armour plating of these was very light. Also (general), any ironclad, a tin-pot (q.v.).

Tinge. A commission on the sale of out-of-date stock: cf. Spiffings.

Tinger. A great lie (*Halliwell*).

Tingle-tangle. The ringing of bells.

Tin-gloves (Winchester). Other ordeals . . . were not quite so harmless . . . a pair of tin gloves which Bully would furnish in the following manner. Taking a half-consumed stick from the fire, he would draw the red-hot end down the back of Green's hand between each of the knuckles to the wrist, and having produced three lines of blisters, would make two or three transverse lines across. A scientifically fitted pair of gloves of this description was generally, if not pleasant wear, of great durability (*Mansfield*).

Tinkard. A begging tinker (1575).

Tinker. 1. An unskilful workman, a botcher. 2. A makeshift; a botch, a bungle. As verb, to make barely or rudely serviceable: e.g. *to tinker up a patient*, to keep Death at arm's length; *to tinker a fence*, to stop a gap here and there; *to tinker a bill*, to make it temporarily workable (1857). *To swill like a tinker*, to tipple without stint (1694). See Lazy.

Tinker's-budget (or news). Stale news, piper's news (q.v.).

Tinker's Damn. A small standard of value: usually, in phrase, Not worth a *tinker's damn* (or *curse*).

Tinkler. 1. A vagrant; whence, 2. a runaway. 3. A bell (1838).

Tinny. A fire; *tinny-hunter*, a thief working at a conflagration.

Tinpot. An ironclad: cf. tin-clad. As adj., generic for shoddy; thus *a tin-pot* (poor or pretentious) *game*; *tin-pot* (shabby) *lot*; *tin-pot* (mean) *company*; *in a tin-pot way*, in poor or worthless fashion; also (American) *tin-horn*.

Tin-tab (Dulwich College). The carpenter's shop.

Tin Tabernacle. An iron-built church.

Tip. 1. Special information, private knowledge; specifically an advice concerning betting or a Stock-Exchange speculation intended to benefit the recipient: *the straight tip*, an absolute cert (q.v.); in racing, direct advice from owner or trainer; also a horse, a stock, etc., specially recommended as a sound investment; as verb, to impart exclusive information; hence *tipster* and *tipper*. *That's the tip*, That's the right thing; *to miss one's tip*, to fail (1567). 2. A gratuity, a vail: spec. money in acknowledgment of service rendered or expected; also (loosely), any gift of money; likewise *tippery*, payment; as verb, (1) to give tips; and (2) to earn money (1610). 3. (Felsted School). (*a*) A false report; (*b*) a foolish blunder in translating. 4. A draught of liquor; an abbreviation of tipple (q.v.); *to tip off*, to drink. As verb, generic for doing: a verb of general application (1567): thus *to tip the lour* (*cole, brass, rhino*, etc.), to pay, give, get, or lend money; *to tip a sock*, to land a blow; *to tip a settler*, to knock out; *to tip to Adam Tiler*, to hand the swag to a confederate; *to tip a mish*, to put on a shirt; *to tip off*, (1) to drink: see Tipple; (2) to die; *to tip the lion*, to flatten one's nose with the thumb and extend the mouth with the fingers; *to tip a daddle* (*the fives*, or *the gripes in a tangle*), to shake hands; *to tip a copper*, to sky a coin; *to tip a yarn*, to tell a story; *to tip the traveller*, to humbug, to romance; *to tip the wink*, to wink (as a sign of caution, understanding, etc.); *to tip the red rag*, to scold; *to tip the rags* (or *the legs*) *a gallop*, or *the double*, to decamp; *to tip all nine*, to knock all the skittles down at once; *to tip a stave*, to sing; *to tip the little finger* (Australian), to drink; *to tip the grampus*, to duck a man: a penalty for sleeping on watch (nautical); *to tip one's boom off*, to hurry away (nautical); *to tip a stave*, to sing a song; *to tip a nod*, to recognise; *to tip a moral*, to give the straight; *to tip a rise*, to befool, etc. (1610). *On the tip of the tongue*, on the point of speech, about to be said (1843).

Tipper. 1. A special brew of ale: named after Mr. Thomas Tipper: also *Brighton Tipper* (1843). 2. See Tip.

Tipperary-Lawyer. A cudgel: cf. Plymouth-cloak.

Tippet. A hangman's rope: also *hempen* (*St. Johnstone's*, or *Tyburn*) *tippet* (1586). *To turn tippet*, to change right-about: cf. Turncoat and Turn cat-in-the-pan (1562).

Tipping. First-rate, jolly.

Tipple (or Tip). 1. Drink; 2. a drinking bout: also *tiplage*, and as verb. Whence not a few colloquial usages: e.g. *on the tipple*, on the booze (q.v.); *to spoil a tip*, to interrupt while drinking; *tippler*, (1) a toper; a fuddlecap, Sots who are continually sipping (*B. E.*); and (2) a publican (the original meaning); *tipsy*, fuddled, drunk, boosy (q.v.): also *tippled* or *tipt* (*B. E.* 'a'most Drunk'). Also derivatives such as *tippling*, *tippling-house*, *tipsify*, *tipsiness*, *tipsy-cake*, etc. (1450).

Tippybobs. The wealthy classes.

Tip-top. The best, first-rate, in the highest degree: hence *tip topper* (*Grose*). English synonyms: A 1, about East, about right, about par, all brandy, all there, all the way, as good as they make it, as good as wheat, at par, bang up, Bible; bobbish; boiler-plated, bona, bully, cheery, the cheese, cheesy, chic, clean potato, clean wheat, clinking, clipping, crack, creamy, crushing, a corker, a daisy, dossy, downy, down to the ground, double-distilled, first chop, first-rate-and-a-half, fizzing, fly, gamey, hunky, jammy, jonnick, lummy, nap, out-and-out, pink, plummy, proper, pure quill, real jam, right as ninepence, ripping, rooter, rum, screaming, scrumptious, ship-shape, slap-up, slick, splash up, splendacious, splendiferous, to the knocker, to the nines; to rights, true marmalade, tsing-tsing; up to Dick. See also Whopper.

Tique. 1. Arithmetic; and 2. mathematics. [*Warner*: from a Harrow French master's peculiar English.]

Tire. To alarm.

Tired. *Born tired*, an excuse for assumed apathy or genuine disinclination.

Tirrit. Fright, terror (1598).

Tiry. Tired (1611).

'Tiser. *The Morning Advertiser.*

Tish. A cubicle, a partition.

Tisty-tosty. Swaggering, swashing.

Tit. Orig. anything small: hence, 1. a small horse; and 2. a girl; a young woman: cf. filly and titter (1548). 3. A small portion, a morsel; whence *tit-bit*, a choice piece, a fine snack (*B. E.*) anything specially selected. 4. See Titmouse. 5. (Durham: local). A student of Durham University: in contempt; also *'varsity tit*. *Tit for tat*, originally *tap for tap* (or *tip for tap*), blow for blow, an equivalent (*Grose*), tant for tant (*B. E.*) *tit for tit*, and dash for dash; hence, *to give tit for tat*, to give as good as one gets (1577). See Tale.

Titch (Christ's Hospital). A flogging: also as verb. [It has been suggested that *titch* = tight breeches: a portmanteau word.]

Titivate (or **Tittivate**). To spruce up, to put finishing touches to one's toilet (1836).

Titivil. A generic reproach: a knave, a jade. [Tom Titivil in old moralities, the Devil] (1542).

Titley. Intoxicating liquor.

Titter. A girl (*Grose*): cf. Tit.

Titter-tatter. One reeling and ready to fall at the least touch: also the childish amusement of riding upon the two ends of a plank, poised upon the prop underneath its centre; called also a see-saw (*Grose*).

Tittle-goose. A foolish blab.

Tittle-tattle. 1. Chatter, scandal, foolish impertinent talk (*B. E.*); women's talk (*Grose*); and, 2. a chatterbox, a gossip. As verb, to gossip. Hence *tittle-tattler* and *tittle-tattling*. Also proverbial saying, *Tittle tattle*, give the goose more hay (1529).

Tittup (or **Titup**). 1. A gentle hand-gallop or canter (*Grose*); hence *titupping* (or *titupy*), (1) lively, gay, frisky; and (2) shaky, ticklish (1704). 2. The thing (q.v.); thus *that's the tittup*, that's the thing; *the correct tittup*, the correct thing.

Tittery. Gin; see Drinks (1725).

Tittery-tu (or **Tityre-tu**). A roaring boy, a street-ruffian, a Mohawk (q.v.). [*Century*: In some fanciful allusion to the first line of the first Eclogue of Virgil,—*Tityre tu patulæ recubans, etc.*] (1616).

Tivy. Tantivy (q.v.)! (1669).

Tizzy. A sixpence: see Rhino. Hence *tizzy-poole* (Winchester), a fives ball (costing 6d. and formerly sold by a head porter named Poole); *tizzy-tick* (Harrow), an order on a tradesman to the extent of 6d. a day (1823).

To. At, in (of places): thus I shall be *to* hum (home); He lives *to* Boston (1837).

Toad. 1. A term of contempt; and 2. a jocular address: e.g. You little toad, cf. Monkey, rogue, etc. also *toadling* (1621). Phrases: She sits like a *toad* on a chopping block (of a horsewoman with a bad seat); As much need of it as a *toad* of a side-pocket, no need at all; As full of money as a *toad* is of feathers, penniless; Like a *toad* under a harrow, on the rack.

Toady. 1. A servile dependant, a lickspittle (q.v.). Also *toad-eater*. Hence as verb (or *toad-eating*), to do dirty or reptile service, to fawn, to lay it on thick (q.v.): Fr., *avaler des couleuvres*. As adj. (*toadyish*, *hateful* or *ugly as a toad*), repulsive, soapy (q.v.), blandiloquent; *toadyism* (or *toad-eating*), servile adulation or service, snobbery (q.v.), turf-hunting (q.v.), flunkyism (q.v.). 2. A coarse peasant-woman.

Toadskin. A five cent stamp. His purse is made of *toad's skin* (of a covetous person) (1670).

Toad-sticker. A sword: almost universal during the war (1861-65) (*Bartlett*).

Toast. 1. Originally, (1) a lady pledged in drinking; subsequently, (2) any person, cause, or thing to which success is drunk; (3) a call to drink, and (4) the act of drinking; also (Scots) *toss*, and as verb; hence *top-toast*, a reigning belle: cf. top (leading) lady; *toaster*, the proposer of another's health (1663). 2. A toper: see Lushington; also *toast and butter*: in contempt (1598). *On toast*, (1) cornered, swindled, done (q.v.); (2) nicely served: of food, etc.

Toasting-fork (or **iron**). A sword (1596); also cheese-toaster (q.v.).

Toasty. Warmly tinted.

Tobaccanalian (**Tobacconer**, or **Tobacchian**). A smoker. Also *tobacconing*, smoking (1615). See Pipe.

Toby (or **Tober**). 1. The road, the highway: whence *high-toby*, a main road; *the toby* (*toby-lay*, or *toby-concern*), highway robbery, *The toby* applies exclusively to robbing on horseback; the practice of footpad robbery being properly called *the spice*, though it is common to distinguish the former by the title of *high-toby*, and the latter of *low-toby* (*Grose*). *Toby-gill* (or *toby-man*), a road thief; *hightobyman*, a mounted highwayman, *lowtobyman*, a footpad; *to toby*, to rob on the highway; and *done for a toby*, convicted for highway robbery: cf. gypsy tober, road. 2. A pitch for a travelling show. 3. A drinking jug or mug: usually a grotesque figure of an old man in a three-cornered hat.

Toby-trot. A simpleton.

Toco (or **Toko**). Chastisement: hence *to give toco*, to thrash (1823).

Tod. A drink, a toddy (1861).

To-day. See Baker.

Toddle. A walk, a saunter: also as verb (or *to do a toddle*), (1) to be off, and (2) to totter along: as an invalid or child. Hence *toddles* (*toddlekins* or *little toddler*), an endearment to a little child (1783).

Toddy. Originally, the juice of the cocoa tree; afterwards, rum, water, sugar, and nutmeg; now generic for a hot drink of any kind of spirits, as whisky-*toddy*, rum-*toddy*, gin-*toddy*, etc.

Toddy-blossom. A grog-blossom (q.v.); a rum-bud (q.v.).

Toddy-stick. A muddler.

Todge. Stodge: as verb, to smash, to pulp.

To-do. Ado, a fuss, a commotion, a set-out: cf. Fr., *affaire* (*a faire*) (1330).

Toe. 1. To kick: e.g. I'll toe you. 2. To reach (or touch) with the toes; e.g. *to toe a line* (*a mark*, or *the scratch*), (1) to stand at attention (or at the start); (2) to be fully prepared for a struggle or contest; (3) to come up to one's obligations; and (4) to border on (1835). Phrases: *To turn up the toes*, to die: see Hop the twig; *to tread on one's toes*, (1) to vex; and (2) to interfere (1861).

To-fit-tie (Winchester: obsolete). It was that brute A—— who *to-fitti-ed* me last night . . . Let me explain . . . it is nothing more or less than the commencement of a line in the old, familiar, *As* in præsenti perfectum format in avi . . . *to fit-ti*, in reference to verbs of the third conjugation transferred from the similarity of sound to the schoolboy's toe; it consisted in tying a running noose on a piece of string, cunningly turning up the bedclothes at the foot, putting it round the big toe of an unconscious sleeper, running the noose up tight, and pulling till the victim followed the direction of the string from the pain getting farther out of bed, and nearer the floor till released (*Felstedian*).

Toe-ragger. A term of contempt: cf. Toey.

Toey. A swell, a toff (q.v.): a New South Wales localism.

Toff. 1. A gentleman, a fop, a swell (q.v.): cf. Toft and Tuft. 2. A superior, a man of grit. Hence *toffer*, a fashionable whore; *tofficky*, dressy, showy, gritty (q.v.): *toffishness*, side (q.v.).

Toffee-scramble. Toffee-making: cf. Tea-fight, Bun-worry, Muffin-circus, etc.

Toft. A showy individual, a swell (*Hotten*): cf. Tuft and Toff.

Togger. See Torpid.

Tog (or **Togs**). See Togman.

Togman (**Toge, Togemans,** or **Tog**). A coat, a cloak, a gown (1567): sometimes *togger*, *toggy*, and (*Tufts*) *long tog*. [Latin, *toga*, a mantle; lit. a covering.] Also *togs*, clothes; see *toggery*, *infra*; *Sunday togs*, best clothes; *toged* (or *togged*), cloaked, gowned, togated, or equipped; *togged out*, carefully dressed; *togged up to the nines*, dressed to kill (q.v.), full-rigged; *toggery*, (1) clothes: see *togs*, *supra*; (2) harness, equipment, belongings; (3) worn-out clothes (*Halliwell*); *long-togs* (nautical), shore clothes; *upper tog* (or *upper togger*), an overcoat. As verb, to dress, to clothe, to equip.

Toheno (or **Tohereno**). Very nice. [That is 'hot one.']

Toke. Generic for food, grub (q.v.): spec. bread. Also (rare), a piece, lump, portion. As verb (The Leys School), to loaf (q.v.), to idle.

Token. 1. The plague (*B. E.*): also the characteristic spots of the disease on the body. 2. A farthing: hence a small standard of value (*B. E.*). [Properly a tradesman's small change, of the nominal values of 1d., ½d., and ¼d.] *Tom-fool's token*, money (*B. E.*).

Toko. See Toco. See Bullock's Heart.

Tol. Lot of stock, share (1851). See Toledo.

Told. *I told you so*, the retort provocant: in modern phrase, So like a woman to say, 'I told you so!' (1412). *To be told* (Tonbridge School), to obtain one's colours in a school team.

Toledo (or **Tol**). A sword-blade: manufactured at Toledo in Spain, whence in fifteenth and sixteenth centuries came the finest tempered weapons: cf. Fox. Hence a *rum tol*, a silver-hilted sword; a *queer tol*, a very ordinary weapon (1596).

Tolerable. In fair health, pretty well: cf. Toll-ollish (1847).

Toll. *To take toll*, to pilfer, to 'pick and steal': cf. custom of millers taking a portion of grain as compensation for grinding. Also to get (or take) more than a proper share (1596).

Tolliban Rig. A species of cheat carried on by a woman, assuming the character of a dumb and deaf conjuror (*Grose*).

Tol-loll (or **Tol-lollish**). Tolerable, pretty good, nothing to grumble at.

Tolly. 1. A candle: spec. a tallow candle; *to tolly up* (Harrow), to light candles surreptitiously after the gas has been put out: cf. Brolly, Yolly, etc. 2 (Stonyhurst). The instrument in caning the hand: also *taps*; hence *tolly-shop*, a Præfect's room where corporal punishment is administered; and *tolly-ticket*, a good-conduct card, given as a reward for specially good work, which, presented when punishment is ordered, secures immunity except for too grave an offence: this system of accumulated merit, now almost obsolete, is precisely similar to one described by Mr. Kegan Paul in his *Memories* as existent at Eton in the forties. *The Tolly* (Rugby), the tapering spire at the back of the Close.

Toloben (**Tollibon**, or **Tullibon**). The tongue: hence *toloben-rig*, fortune telling.

Tolsery. A penny [*Halliwell*: A cant term.] See Rhino.

Tom. 1. A generic slight: e.g. *Tomboy*, *Tom-double*, *Tom-farthing*, *Tom-fool*, *Tom-noddy* (all of which see). *Tomring*, a contemptuous reference to the use of bells in the ceremonial of the mass (1648). 2. A deep-toned bell: e.g. Great (or Big) *Tom* of Oxford, Lincoln, Exeter: probably onomatopœia; whence *after Tom*, after 9 p.m.: at that hour Big *Tom* of Christchurch, Oxford, strikes one for every student in residence (101); when it ceases the gates are closed and late comers are fined on a sliding scale up to midnight, after which delinquents are gated (q.v.) (1630). 3. A close-stool (*Halliwell*).

Tomahawk. To bungle the shears in fleecing sheep (1859). *To bury* (or *dig up*) *the tomahawk*, to make peace (or go to war), to settle a difference (or to dispute): it was the custom of the North American Indians to bury the tomahawk during time of peace: see Hatchet.

Tom-and-Jerry Days. The period of the Regency (1810-20): also, when George IV. was king. [An allusion to Pierce Egan's *Life in London*, published in 1821: in it Corinthian Tom and Jerry Hawthorn see life, much of it of a low or fast order.

Tom-and-Jerry-Shop. A low drinking-shop: see previous entry.

Tom Astoner. A dashing fellow, a bold blade, a devil-may-care.

Tom-a-Styles. Anybody, Mr. Thingamy (q.v.): cf. John-a-Noakes (1772).

Tom-a-Thrums. See Wise.

Tomato Can Vag. Draining the dregs of an empty beer-barrel into a tomato can.

Tomboy. 1. A boisterous boy: see Tom; 2. a romping girl, a hoyden; whence, 3. a strumpet: also *tom-rig* (*B. E.*). As adj., rough, boisterous, wanton (1550).

Tom Bray's Bilk. Laying out ace and deuce at cribbage (*Vaux*).

Tom Brown. Twelve in hand, or crib (*Vaux*).

Tombs (The). The New York city prison: its style of architecture is heavy Egyptian. Hence *tombs' lawyer*, a thieves' advocate: cf. Old Bailey practitioner.

Tombstone. 1. A projecting tooth, a snaggle-tooth (q.v.): see Grinders. 2. A pawn-ticket, a mortgage deed (q.v.)

Tombstone-style. A fashion in composition: spec. of displayed advertisements, these resembling (or are supposed to resemble) monumental inscriptions.

Tom Coney. A blundering idiot, a thundering fool (1696).

Tom Cox's Traverse. Three turns round the long boat, and a pull at the scuttle butt: said of a shirker feigning busy (1835).

Tom, Dick, and Harry (or **Tom and Dick**). Everybody and anybody: cf. all the world and his wife. As adj., commonplace (1693).

Tom-doodle. A simpleton (1709).

Tom-double. A double-dealer, a shuffler (1705).

Tom Drum. See Jack Drum's entertainment.

Tom-farthing. A fool.

Tom-fool. A thundering fool: an intensive; see Tom and Jack-fool (Jack, 8). Hence *tom-foolery* (*tom-folly*, or *tom-foolishness*), nonsense, trash, anything ridiculous or trifling;

tomfoolish, ridiculously absurd; *Tom-fool's colours*, scarlet and yellow (the ancient motley—Red and yellow, Tom fool's colour); More know *Tom fool* than *Tom fool* knows (a sarcastic retort on failing to recognise, or professing to be unacquainted with, a person saluting (1565).

Tom Long. A prosy talker, a bore (q.v.): a windbag (q.v.). Also *to wait for Tom Long the carrier*, to wait to no purpose; *that's coming by Tom Long the carrier* (of anything long expected) (1696).

Tommy. 1. Orig. a penny roll; hence, 2. bread, food: specifically a workman's daily allowance carried in a handkerchief; 3. goods supplied to a workman in lieu of wages; 4. the truck-system (q.v.); 5. a shop run on truck lines: also *tommy-shop* (or *store*); and 6. a baker's shop; whence also *soft* (or *white*) *tommy* (nautical), (1) bread: as distinguished from biscuit or hard-tack (q.v.); and (2) soft solder (jewellers'); *brown-tommy*, ammunition bread for soldiers, or that given to convicts on the hulks; *tommy bag*, a workman's scran-bag (or handkerchief); and *tommy master*, an employer who pays in kind or by orders on tradesmen with whom he shares profits; as verb, to enforce (or defraud by means of) the tommy-system (1843). 7. A simpleton: a Tom-fool (q.v.). 8. See Tommy Atkins. 9. (Dublin University). A sham shirt-front, a dickey (q.v.): Gr. τομή, a section. 10. A tomato: usually in plural.

Tommy Atkins (**Mr. Atkins**, or **Tommy**. (1) A soldier (of privates only); and (2) among soldiers themselves, a private's pocket account-book. [On attestation forms and other documents occurs the sample name Thomas Atkins. 'I, Thomas Atkins, swear to do so-and-so.' The same bogus name appears in the Mutiny Act; it is, in fact, a tradition of a century, and was popularised by Rudyard Kipling in *Barrack-room Ballads*.] Fr., *Dumanet*.

Tommy-axe. A corruption of tomahawk: an instance of the law of Hobson-Jobson (q.v.).

Tommy Dodd. 1. The odd man: in tossing, either winner or loser of a call, according to agreement; also 2. the mode of tossing. [It was the refrain of a Music Hall song, *circa* 1866—Heads or tails are sure to win. Tommy Dodd, Tommy Dodd.]

Tommy o' Rann. Scran, food.

Tommy-rot. Drivelling nonsense, bosh (q.v.); gammon (q.v.). As verb, to fool, to humbug; *tommy-rotics*, obscenity, erotic balderdash.

Tommy Tripe. To observe, to pipe (q.v.): also *Tommy*. *Tommy his plates*, look at his feet.

Tom-noddy (or **Tommy-noddy**). A fool.

Tom o' Bedlam. See **Bedlam beggar** and **Abraham-man.**

To-morrow Come Never. Never, at the Greek calends: see **Queen Dick** (1710).

Tom-pat. 1. A shoe: in Gypsy, a foot. 2. A parson; a patrico (q.v.); *rum tom-pat*, a clerk in holy orders: patrico (properly), a sham or hedge-priest.

Tom Pepper. A liar (*Clark Russell*).

Tompion. A watch. [Thomas Tompion, a celebrated watchmaker, died in 1669.]

Tom-piper. A piper: cf. nursery rhyme, Tom, Tom, the piper's son (1616).

Tom-poker. A bugbear.

Tom-rig. See Tomboy.

Tom Tell-truth (or **Tom Truth**). 1. See *Tell-truth*. 2. An honest man, a trusty fellow. 3. A true guesser (*Halliwell*).

Tom Thumb. A dwarf, a thumbling (Fr., *petit poucet*), a hop-o'-my-thumb (q.v.) (1592).

Tom Tiddler's Ground. Waste ground, unsettled acreage, a No-man's Land: properly a neutral or barren stretch of country between two kingdoms or provinces: e.g. the tract between Spain and the lines of Gibraltar.

Tom-tiler. A henpecked husband.

Tom Tit. A dwarf, an insignificant fellow, see Hop-o'-my-thumb (q.v.).

Tom Titivil. See Titivil.

Tom-toe. The great toe.

Tom Topper. A ferryman, a river hand: also *Tom Tug*.

Tom Towly. A simpleton (1583).

Tom-trot. A sweetmeat: sugar, butter, and treacle melted together (*Halliwell*).

Tom Tug. 1. A fool, a mug (q.v.). 2. See Tom Topper.

Tom-tumbler. ? The name of a fiend. See Scot, *Discoverie of Witchcraft*, 1584, as quoted in Ritson's *Essay on Fairies*, p. 45 (*Halliwell*).

Tom Tyler. A common fellow, a Mr. Nobody: cf. Smith and Jones (1583).

Ton. See Bon-ton.

Tone. That one: see Tother.

Tong. 1. In pl., pantaloons, overalls: see Kicks. 2. In pl., forceps: dental or midwifery. *Pair of tongs*, a lanky person, a lamp-post (q.v.): also *Tongs!* (a sarcastic address). *Not to be touched without a pair of tongs*, a simile of disgust: also, except at the end of a barge-pole (1668). *Hammer and tongs*, see Hammer.

Tongue. Generic for speech: esp. (1) gabble; (2) abuse, or (3) impudence. As verb (*to tongue it*, or *to flash the tongue*), (1) to talk down; (2) to talk at, to chide; (3) to mouth (q.v.); and (4) to sauce (q.v.), Whence numerous derivatives and combinations: thus, *to tongue-bang*, to scold roundly, to rate: *tongue-banger*, a scold; *tongue-battery*, a torrent of words, a flood of talk; *tongue-biter*, an indistinct speaker: also *to bite the tongue*, to keep silence; *tongue-doughty*, bragging, word-valiant; *tongue-fence*, debate, argument: *tongue fencer* (1) a master of words, and (2) a mouthing-speaker; *tongue-lashing*, wordy abuse; *tongue-man* (1) an orator, (2) a chatterbox, and (3) a scold: also *tongue-pad*, and *tonguester; tongue-powder*, fluency of phrase; *tongue-shot*, as far as the voice will reach: cf. ear-shot; *tongue-sore*, an evil tongue, ill-speaking; *tongue-valiant*, (1) free of talk: hence (2) brave in word but cowardly in deed; *tonguey*, voluble, abusive, *to tongue walk*, to abuse; *tongue warrior*, a boaster; *to tongue whip*, to lash with scorn; *tongue wagging*, speech-making, verbosity, raillery: cf. He can *wag his tongue* better than he can wield his sword, pen, etc. (of one promising more than he can perform); *to wag one's tongue*, to talk, to chatter; *tongue-work*, chatter, philological studies; *a long tongue*, so full of talk that one can't get in a word edgeways; *auld wives' tongues*, scandal. Also phrases: *On* (or *at*) *the tip* (or *end*) *of the tongue*, on the point of speech, about to say (or tell); *to give tongue*, to blurt out; *to keep* (or *hold*) *one's tougue*, to be silent; *to wag one's tongue*, to speak out of season; *as old as my tongue, and a little older than my teeth*, a dovetail to How old are you? *a tongue too long for one's teeth* (or *mouth*), indiscreet, over-ready of speech; *to find one's tongue*, to break silence; *to put one's tongue in another's purse*, to silence; *tongue enough for two sets of teeth*, said of a talkative person; *the tongue of the trump*, the best, the most important thing or person: see Trump; *Mew your tongue* (old), Shut your mouth! *The Vulgar Tongue* (*Grose*), cant, slang, heterodox speech, etc.

Tonic. 1. A drink: spec. an appetiser. 2. A halfpenny: see Rhino.

Tonish (Tony, etc.). See Bon Ton.

Tonkabout (Charterhouse and Durham). Skying a ball; *to tonk*, to drive a ball into the air: cricket.

Tonner. Usually in combination: e.g. a *ten-tonner*, etc. (of floating bottoms): cf. twenty-thousand pounder (an heiress: Farquhar, *Recruiting Officer*).

Tony. A simpleton (1668).

Too. *This is too much*, the retort sarcastic or jocose: an echo of Artemus Ward among the Shakers. See Bag, Boots, Thin, Too-too.

Tool. 1. A person employed by another (in reproach)—a jackal, satellite, dupe, cat's-paw. Hence, *a poor tool*, a clumsy worker, a bad hand at anything; *a mere tool*, a sycophant; also *tool*, a useless, shiftless fellow (1650). 2. A weapon: spec. a sword (1360). 3. Usually in pl., (*a*) pistols; (*b*) housebreaking implements; (*c*) the hands, the forks (q.v.); and (*d*) in sing., a small boy employed to creep through windows, etc., to effect entry; hence *to tool*, to burgle, pick pockets, steal; *fixed for the tools*, convicted for possession of illegal instruments; *tooler*, a burglar or pickpocket; *moll-tooler*, a female thief. 4. Generic for equipment (cf. all senses): spec. (artists') brushes, (authors'), books, especially works of reference, (medical) surgical instruments. 5. A whip; hence as verb, to handle a team of horses skilfully; also (loosely), to drive; applied to all means of locomotion — engine, cart, bicycle, motor-car, etc.; *to tool along*, to go quickly (1849).

Tooley-street tailor. A conceited

bumptious fellow. [*Hotten*: The three tailors of Tooley Street immortalised themselves by preparing a petition for Parliament and presenting it with only their own signatures thereto, which commenced, 'We, the people of England'—so it is said.]

Toot. 1. The Devil; and, 2. a shiftless fellow, a good-for-nothing. Whence (American) *on a toot*, raising the devil, on a spree. See Tout.

Tooth (Teeth). A special taste, palate, or relish; a great liking. Hence *toothy* (or *toothful*), palatable, to one's liking; *the run of one's teeth*, keep, maintenance; *something for the tooth*, (1) food, and (2) a tit-bit; *to love the tooth*, to gourmandise; *tooth-music*, mastication (1581). Phrases and combinations: *Hen's teeth*, anything imaginary or rare, a *rara avis:* cf. black swan; *in spite of one's teeth*, (1) in face of opposition; (2) under protest; *in the teeth*. (1) with difficulty or much ado; (2) at long odds, or against the grain; and (3) to one's face; *to cast* (or *throw*) *in the teeth*, to accuse, blame, or bring home to: see Matthew xxvii. 44; *to grind* (or *show*) *one's teeth*, to take amiss, to get angry; *to set one's teeth*, to steel oneself, to put one's foot down; *to one's teeth*, resolutely, boldly, openly; *from one's teeth*, reluctantly, as a matter of form, not seriously; *to hit in the teeth*, to taunt, to twit; *to hide one's teeth*, to dissemble, to feign friendship; *to lie in one's teeth*, to tell unblushing falsehoods; *with teeth and all* (see Tooth-and-Nail); *between the teeth*, in a whisper, aside; *to set the teeth on edge*, to repel, offend, or shock; *to take the bit in one's teeth*, to cast aside restraint, to kick over the traces; *to have cut one'e eye* (or *high*) *teeth*, to be cute or knowing, to know what's what (q.v.); *old in the tooth*, advanced in years: spec. in contempt of old maids; *armed to the teeth*, fully prepared, alert, awake (q.v.); *by the skin of the teeth*, barely, by a close shave; *clean as a hound's tooth*, as clean as may be, highly polished; *to carry a bone in the teeth* (see Bone); *to have the teeth well afloat* (or *under*), to be drunk; *to the hard teeth*, very severely; *to go to grass with teeth upwards*, to be buried; *to draw teeth* (medical students': obsolete), to wrench off knockers; *dog's-tooth*, a snaggle tooth, a tombstone (q.v.); *colts'-tooth* (see ante); He ought to have his *teeth* drawn, he should be curbed, sat upon (q.v.).

Tooth-and-nail. In earnest, to the utmost: i.e. even to biting and scratching. Also *with teeth and all.*

Tooth-carpenter. A dentist, a snag-fencer (q.v.).

Tooth-drawer. *Like a tooth-drawer*, thin, meagre, bald (1393).

Toother. A blow on the mouth.

Toothful. A dram, a nip: cf. Thimbleful.

Toothpick. 1. A large stick (*Grose*). *The Crutch and Toothpick Brigade*, foppish men about town: spec. (c. 1884) hangers-on at stage doors when burlesque was in full swing at the Gaiety: they affected, as the badge of their tribe, a crutch-handled stick and a toothpick. 2. A sword. As adj., narrow and pointed, like a toothpick; spec. of footgear. See Arkansas toothpick.

Tooth-rake (or **scraper**). A toothpick (1696).

Toothy-peg. A tooth.

Tooting-tub. A church organ.

Tootle. Trashy: spec. of immature literary effort.

Tootledum-Pattick. A fool.

Too-too. An intensive form of too: over-and-above, more than enough, very good, extreme, utter; spec. (modern but obsolete) of exaggerated æstheticism (1533).

Tootsie. A foot: spec. of women and children.

Top. 1. The head. 2. The hair, the thatch (q.v.): also *top-dressing*: spec. the forelock or top-knot; whence *topper*, (*a*) a violent blow on the head, and (*b*), a hat: *top lights*, the eyes; also phrases: *tail over top*, headlong; *top over tail*, topsy-turvy (q.v.), rashly, hastily; *from top to toe*, wholly; *top and tail*, everything (1360). 3. In pl., top-boots: cf. Smalls and Trunks; also (rarely) upper garments (1707). As verb, (1) to behead (the usage still lingers in agriculture), to hang; whence *to be topped*, to be hung: see Ladder; *topping-cheat*, the gallows: see Cheat; *topping-cove* (or *topsman*), Jack Ketch (q.v.); also subs., a dying speech, a croak (*B. E.*); (2) generic for superiority: to excel, surpass, cap (q.v.): thus *to top one's part*, (*a*) to surpass oneself, and (*b*) to do zealously. as adj. (or *topping*), prime, first-class, distinguished, thorough, extreme: e.g. *top* (the best) *ale*; a *top* (a principal) *character*, or *part*; *the top of the tree*, pre-eminent socially, in wealth, in a profession, etc.; *a top* (a favourite) *toast*; *a top* (a titled or well-to-do) *family*; *top* (full) *speed*; and so forth; *toppingest* (or *topless*), the best, supreme; and *toppingly*, fine, very well; also (in a baser sense) arrogantly, assumingly, badly, vilely; *topper* (or *top-sawyer*), anybody or anything exceptional: as the largest and best fruit: usually placed on top in packing: cf. Humphrey Toppers; an expert thief; a famous horse; a beautiful woman; a man of large means, exceptional influence, high position, or remarkable genius: also (of persons) *topping man* or *topping fellow*; *to come out on top*, to be successful, to get there (q.v.); *a little bit off the top*, some of the best; *the top of desire*, the height of ambition, all that one cares for: cf. *tip-top*; *top and top-gallant*, in full fig (q.v.), rig, array, or force. (3) to put in a finishing touch, to conclude: spec. to drink (or toss off) a bumper, or to wind up a meal by a special course: also *to top up* (or *off*) (1614); (4) to snuff (a candle): also *top the glim*: amongst work-people, one cried 'Top!' the others followed, the last having to do duty: long obsolete (1607): (5) to cheat, to trick, to insult (*B. E.*), to get the better of (or a bulge on) one (q.v.): spec. to cheat with dice. *To cry in top of*, (1) to overrule; (2) to talk down, to outspeak (1596). *To top a clout*, to draw the corner or end to the top of a person's pocket, in readiness for shaking or drawing, that is, taking out, when a favourable moment occurs, which latter operation is frequently done by a second person (*Vaux*).

To-pan (Winchester). A large basin of red earthenware placed in each chamber for washing the feet (*Mansfield*).

Top-dressing. An introduction to a report: usually written by an experienced hand and set in larger type.

Tope. To drink: spec. to drink hard. Hence *toper*, a confirmed tippler, a soaker (q.v.); *to tope it about*, to keep the bottle going briskly (1675).

Top-heavy. Drunk: see Screwed (1670).

Top-honours. Topsails (1700).

Top-joint. See Top-o'-reeb.

Toplights. See Top.

Top-lofty. Pretentious, bombastic, high-falutin' (q.v.): also *top-loftical*.

Top-o'-reeb. A pot of beer. *Top-joint*, a pint of beer.

Top of the Morning. A cheery greeting.

Topper. 1. A cigar stump; and 2. a plug of tobacco at the bottom of a pipe; hence *topper-hunter*, a scavenger of half-smoked and refuse tobacco. 3. A lanky person, a lamp-post (q.v.). 4. See Top.

Topping-cheat. See Top.

Top-ropes. *To sway away on all top-ropes*, to live riotously or extravagantly (*Grose*).

Topsail (or topsails over). Topsy-turvy (q.v.), heels over head (1430). *To pay one's debts with the topsail*, to go to sea leaving scores unpaid; cf. (military) to pay one's score with the drum (to march away).

Top-sawyer. 1. See Top. 2. A collar; also the front of a garment.

Top-shuffle. To shuffle the lower half of a pack over the upper half without disturbing it. The cut, of course, buries it, but by a very simple movement the cards are forced back to their original condition. This is shifting the cut, and can be done with one hand or two.

Topsy-boosy. Drunk: see screwed.

Topsy-turvy. Upside down, upset, in confusion: also as adj., subs., and verb, with derivatives such as *topsy-turvily*, *topsy-turviness*, *topsy-turvydom*, *topsy-turvyfication*, *topsy-turvify*, and *topsy-turvyism*. Variants: Topsy-tervy, Topsy-tyrvy, Topsie-turvie, Topse-torve, Topsy-turvye, Topsie-turvy, Topsi-turvy, Topsy-turvey, Topsoltiria (Scots'); Tapsalteerie (Scots'); Tapsie-teerie (Scots'); Top-turvye, Topsey, Turvy-topsy, Topsyd-turvey, Topside-turvey, Topside-turvy, Topsyturn, Topsiturn, Top-sieturn, Topsyturny, Topsiturnie, Top-sieturn, Topsiturn, Topside-turned, Topset-torvie, Topset-turvie, Topset-tirvi, Topside the other way; topside totherway, Topside turfway, Tossy-tail (1528).

Top-yob. A pot-boy.

Torch-race (Winchester: obsolete). Formerly, part of the breaking-up ceremony of the winter half-year.

On the last morning the boys, after early chapel, rushed out of gates, each bearing a burning birch broom, up College Street and along the wall of the close up to the old White Hart Inn, where breakfast was prepared before the chaises started. This subsequently gave way to a race of Seniors in sedan chairs.

Tormentor. 1. A long iron fork: used by cooks at sea. 2. A first groove wing. 3. A back-scratcher (q.v.).

Tormentor-of-catgut. A fiddler, a catgut-scraper (*Grose*).

Tormentor-of-sheepskin. A drummer (1785).

Torn-down. An unruly, unmanageable person: as adj. (1) rebellious; (2) overpowering.

Torpid (or togger) (Oxford). (1) A second-class racing eight: corresponding to the Cambridge slogger (q.v.); (2) one of the crew; (3) in pl. the Lent races: also as adj.; (4) A boy who has not been two years in the school (*Harrow*).

Torrac. A carrot.

Torril. A worthless woman, or horse.

Torturer of Anthems. A chorister; a hallelujah howler (q.v.) (1809).

Tortle. To shamble away.

Tortoise. See pump and tortoise.

Tory. (1) Orig. (Irish), a marauder: spec. a bandit (16th century) who, to cover lawlessness, took up arms for the King. Hence (2) a bully, a terror; and (3) a generic reproach: e.g. (*a*) a sympathiser with, disbeliever in, or supposed abettor of the Popish plot; (*b*) one who refused to concur in the Exclusion Act confirming the succession to the throne to Protestants, a measure which was directly aimed at the Duke of York, afterwards James II.; and (*c*), collectively, the Court as distinguished from the Country party, or Whigs (q.v.). Subsequently Tory assumed its modern meaning, i.e. one upholding the existing order of things in Church and State, as opposed to Liberal, i.e. one who sought, by experimental legislation, to remedy admitted or supposed disabilities. About 1832 Tory began to be superseded by Conservative; indeed the march of time has now (1903) considerably modified the old Tory political ideas (1566). (4) (American). A loyalist: during the period of the War of Independence. Hence any one favouring the claims of Great Britain against the revolted Colonies.

Tosh. 1. A bath, a foot-pan; also as verb, to splash, to douse, to throw water over a person: e.g. He toshed his house beak by mistake, and got three hundred; *tosh-pond* (Royal Military Academy), the bathing-pond. 2. See Tush. 3. Nonsense; rot (q.v.): What frightful *tosh* (*Oxf. Mag.* 26 Oct. 1892).

Tosher (Oxford University). 1. An unattached student. 2. A small fishing vessel. 3. A man who steals copper from ships' bottoms in the Thames (*Hotten*).

Tosh-soap. Cheese: see Tosh.

Toss. 1. Agitation, commotion, anxiety (1666). 2. A measure of sprats. As verb, to drink at a draught, to gulp: e.g. *to toss* a can of beer: also to *toss off*: cf. Toast; hence *toss-pot*, a drunkard: see Lushington; *tossed* (or *tosticated*), drunk: see Screwed (1560). Also colloquialisms and phrases: *To toss out*, (1) to dress hurriedly, and (2) to depart hastily; *To toss off*, (1) see verb, supra; (2) to do, execute, or turn out quickly: as *to toss off* a poem, a task, or musical performance; (3) to while away (of time), to dispose of easily: *to toss up* (or *to toss*), (1) to decide a matter by skying a coin: also as subs. (or *toss up*), an even chance, and *to win the toss*, to be successful; *to toss up*, (2) to prepare rough and readily (of food). See Blanket.

Toss-plume. A braggart, a swaggerer.

Tossy. Off-hand, careless: also *tossily*.

Tossy-tail. Topsy-turvy (q.v.).

Tostication. Perplexity, commotion: whence *tosticated*, (1) restless, worried; and (2) intoxicated: also *tossicated* (1720).

Tot. 1. Generic for anything small: spec. an endearment: e.g. *a wee tot*, a little child: cf. Toddlekins; also, 2. a measure holding a gill; whence a nip or dram, a go (q.v.); as verb, to drink: see Tote (1725). 3. see Tottery. 4. A bone: spec. (army), kitchen refuse and (general) all kinds of waste, or marine store stuff; hence *totting*, bone-picking, dust-heap sifting; *tot-picker* (or *raker*), a scavenger; *The Old Tots*, the 17th Lancers; the Death or Glory Boys: in allusion to the regimental badge of a skull and crossbones. As verb, (1) to count, to reckon: also *to tot up* (or *tote*); also (2), to wager all: cf. Tote, infra; hence as subs., an exercise in addition; *tot-book*, a book containing examples for practice; *the tote* (or *the whole tote*), all, everything; *to tote fair*, to reckon accurately: hence (South and Western American), to act honestly; to play the game (q.v.) (1766).

Tote. A teetotaller: also (in sarcasm, with a glance at *tot*, to drink drams), a hard drinker. see Tot. As verb, to carry, to bear a burden, to endure; hence *tote-load*, as much as one can carry; *tote-road*, a road or track.

Toter. A piper [*Gifford*: a low term] (1633).

Tother (Tone). The other, the one (The, *thet*, the old neuter article); *tone and tother*, both; *totheremmy*, the others (1200).

T'other-day. Spec. the day before yesterday, but frequently used in an indefinite sense.

T'other School (Winchester). 1. One's former school; 2. any school not a public school. As adj., non-licet (q.v.), or unbecoming, because more or less alien to Winchester. *T'other-'un* (Charterhouse), a private school.

T'other-sider (Victoria: now rare). A convict: see Sidney-sider.

Totter. To hang, to swing on the gallows (1630).

Totterarse. Seesaw.

Tottery. Shaky, unsteady: also *tottlish* (or *totty*). Hence, *tottle*, to walk unsteadily; *totty-headed*, giddy, hare-brained; *tot*, a simpleton (1383).

Tottie. A high-class harlot: somewhat of an endearment: cf. Tot.

Touch. 1. Worth, value, cost: usually in combination, as a *guinea-touch*, something costing a guinea; *a penny touch*, a penn'orth; also (Eton), a present of money (1720). 2. A trick, a dodge, a contrivance; *to do a touch*, to make shift, to manage somehow (1530). 3. Generic for the minimum of effort or effect: e.g. a *touch* (suspicion) *of frost*; a *touch of the tar-brush*, slightly coloured (of mixed white and black blood); a *touch* (a spice) *of humour*; a *slight touch*, a gentle reminder: hence *to touch upon*, to dwell lightly on a matter; a *touch* (a pricking) *of conscience*; a *touch* (a trace) *of pity*; a *touch* (a foretaste) *of spring*; a *touch* (a twinge) *of pain*; *to touch off*, to outline, draft, or produce hastily or by a few strokes of pen, pencil, or brush; *to touch up*, (1) to gently jog the memory, (2) to urge, egg on, or spur forward, (3) to improve, mend, or add to; *touch up*, (1) a remainder, (2) a spur to action, (3) a finishing or improving stroke (1597). See Touch-and-go. As verb, (1) generic for getting: spec. to get money in hand: also in modern usage, to obtain speciously or secretly, by methods that will not bear too close a scrutiny; and hence (thieves'), to steal: in Australia to act unfairly (1726); (2) to be equal to, capable of, or bear comparison with; to *have a touch*, to make an attempt (1713); (3) to arrest (*Grose*). Phrases and colloquialisms: *In touch with*, (1) in sympathy, and (2) near at hand; *out of touch with*, (1) antagonistic, and (2) out-of-the-way, un-get-at-able; *to touch one*, to affect, concern, or influence; *to touch a sore spot* (*up*, *home*, or *on the raws*, etc.), to irritate by allusion or joke, to rub up the wrong way, to clinch an argument, advice, or comment; *true as touch*, absolutely true; *to touch bottom* (or *bedrock*), (1) to reach the lowest point, and (2) to get at the truth of matters; *to touch her up* (nautical), to shake a vessel by luffing; *touch pot*, *touch penny*, no credit given; *touch bone and whistle*, any one having broken wind backwards, according to vulgar law, may be pinched by any of the company till he has touched bone (i.e. his teeth) and whistled (1400). See Touched.

Touch-and-go. 1. Uncertain, risky, nothing to spare, hasty, superficial: of persons and things. As subs., (*a*) a narrow escape, a close shave; and (*b*) a trifle; also *a near* (or *close*) *touch* (or *touch* (or *toucher*); *as near as a toucher*, as near as may be, very nearly; *touch and go*, to drive close enough to touch and escape injury—a trick of the old jarveys to show their skill. 2. Applied to anything within an ace of ruin.

Touched. Slightly crazy, mentally impaired. Hence, *touch*, a kink, a twist (1704).

Toucher. See Touch-and-go.

Touch-my-nob. A shilling, a bob (q.v.): see Rhino.

Touch-piece. A luck piece given by the sovereign to those they touched for the cure of scrofula, or king's evil.

Touchy. 1. Irritable, apt to take offence, all angles and corners [i.e. tetchy]. [*Johnson*: a low word.] Hence *touchiness*, sensitiveness, peevishness (1529). 2. Descriptive of a style in which points, broken lines, or touches are employed, as distinguished from firm unbroken line work: cf. touch. 3. (Christ's Hospital). Rather, e.g. *touchy a lux*, rather a good thing.

Tough. A rough, a bully. As adj., generic for difficult, trying, severe: e.g. a *tough* (incredible) *yarn*, a long story; a *tough* (difficult) *job*; a *tough* (severe) *rebuke*; a *tough* (violent) *storm*; a *tough* (prolonged) *siege*; a *tough* (stubborn) *customer*, a hard nut to crack; also *to make it tough*, (1) to raise difficulties, to make much of a small matter, and (2) to take excessive pains; *as tough as whitleather*, as tough as may be. See Old Toughs.

Tour. A turn or drive: spec. the fashionable promenade in Hyde Park (1665). See Towre. *The Grand Tour*, in 18th and early 19th centuries a continental tour embracing France, Switzerland, Italy, and Germany: regarded as an essential finish to the education of young men of rank.

Tousle (or **Towsle**). To rumple.

Tout. The posteriors (1383). As verb, to look out sharp, to be on one's guard (*B. E.*): also *to keep tout*: see Nark. Hence, to follow; and (modern), to canvass for custom as do hotel, coach, or steamer servants, to solicit employment as does a guide, or (racing) to spy out special information concerning horses in training. *A strong tout*, strict observation, close watching. As subs., (1) a hotel, coach, or steamer runner; (2) a spy for thief or smuggler; (3) a racing agent or horse-watcher. Also *touting-ken*, a tavern-bar (1696).

Tow (Shrewsbury School). 1. A long run in: at hare and hounds. 2. Generic for money: see Rhino. *To tow out*, to decoy: spec. to distract attention and thus pave the way for robbery by a confederate. *In tow*, in hand, at one's apron strings, under one's influence, or at command: of persons and things; spec. of a woman who is said to have such and such an admirer in tow.

Towards. *I looks* (*sic*) *towards you*, a toast.

Towel. 1. A cudgel: also *oaken* or (*blackthorn*) *towel*; as verb (*to give a towelling* or *to rub down with a towel*), to reprimand, scold, and (spec.) thrash (1771). *A lead* (or *leaden*) *towel* a bullet (1812).

Tower. (1) A fashion in feminine hair-dressing, *temp.* William III. and Anne: pasteboard, ribbon, and lace were built up in tiers, or in stiffened bows, and draped with a lace scarf or veil. Also (2) a wig or the natural hair built up in the same fashion; and (3) false hair worn on the forehead (1663). As verb, (1) to watch closely to see, observe, understand: as a hawk on the look-out for prey: also *toure, tour, twire, twyre*; *to tour out*, to go abroad in search of booty: hence to be off, to decamp (1567). *Been round the Tower*, clipped: of money (1696).

Tower-hill-play. A slap on the face and a kick on the breech (*B. E.*).

Tower-hill Vinegar. The swordsman's block. [Tower-hill was, for long, the place of execution.] Hence *to preach on Tower Hill*, to be hanged (1529).

Towering. Extreme, violent, outrageous (1713).

Towhead. 1. A flaxen-haired person; and, 2. a rumple-head; in contempt. Whence *tow-headed*, rough-headed, unkempt.

Town. 1. London: e.g. I go to (or leave) town to-morrow; so-and-so is in town: cf. Lane, House, Alley, etc.: whence *man about town* (see phrases) (1601). 2. University and schools). Townspeople, as distinguished from Gown (q.v.), the members of the University. [In early days Universities were subject to perpetual conflict—with the town, the Jews, the Friars, and the Papal Court. Also *townsman*, and (Cambridge) *townee* (or *towner*); Ger. *Philister*. *Town-lout* (Rugby), a scholar residing in the town with his parents, and *towney* (Christ's Hospital), (*a*) the antithesis of housey, that is peculiar to the Hospital: whence (spec.) *towneys*, clothes more in accordance with modern taste for town wear than is the distinctive blue habit; also (*b*) a comrade from the same town or locality (army): Fr., *pays* (1846). Phrases: *to come to town*, (1) to become common, and (2) to be born; *on the town*, (1) getting a living by prostitution, thieving, or the like, and (2) in the swing of pleasure, dissipation, etc., London being regarded as the centre of national life; *to go* (or *take a turn*) *round the town*, to seek amusement, spec. at night and by a round of the halls; *a man* (or *woman*) *of the town*, a person whose living, occupation, or taste is more or less connected with the shady or fast side of life; *to paint the town red* (see Red); *in town*, in funds; *out of town*, hard up, penniless (1593).

Town-bull. *To roar like a town-bull.* To cry, or bellow aloud (*Grose*).

Tow-pow. In pl., The Grenadier Guards.

Tow-row. A noise, a racket (q.v.).

Touzery Gang (The). Mock auction swindlers: they hire sale-rooms, usually in the suburbs, and advertise their ventures as Alarming Sacrifices, Important Sales of Bankrupt's Stock, etc.

Towzle (or Towse). See Tousle, verb.

Toy. Generic for wantonness: as subs., a lewd conceit, jest, tale, a love poem, amorous sport. As verb, to wanton, to dally: also *to tick and toy*. *Toyful* (*toysome*, *toyish*, or *toying*), amorous, wanton (1303). Hence, (1) anything of casual or trifling interest, use, amusement, or adornment, of adventitious worth, as contrasted with serious, hard use, or intrinsic value: a nick-nack, e.g. a trinket, an idle story, odd conceit, and spec. anything diminutive (1529). (2) A whim, fancy, huff, offence, or caprice; hence *to take toy*, (*a*) to be huffish, whimsical, restless; and (*b*) to go at random, play tricks, act the fool: whence *toysome*, etc.: cf. Hoity-toity, thoughtless, giddy. *Toyty-headed*, feather-brained (1400). (3) A watch: whence *white toy*, a silver watch; *red toy*, a gold watch; *toy and tackle*, watch and chain; *toy-getter*, a watch-snatcher. (4) (Winchester). In pl., a bureau—desk and bookcase combined; whence *toy-time*, evening preparation (1440).

Tprot. An exclamation of contempt.

Trace. In pl., authority, work, guidance, restraint; hence *in the traces*, in harness (q.v.), at steady work; *to kick over the traces*, to set at defiance, run riot, take the law into one's own hands.

Track. 1. To go: hence *to track up the dancers*, to whip upstairs (1671); also (modern) *to make tracks*, to go (or run) away; *to make tracks for*, (*a*) to proceed towards; and (*b*) to attack, to go for (q.v.). 2. In various phrases: e.g. *in one's tracks*, on the spot, as one goes, then and there; *off the track*, discursive, out of one's reckoning, at sea; *inside track*, the truth, bedrock (q.v.).

Trade. 1. An exchange: e.g. a swopping of knives: also as verb, to exchange. 2. (Christ's Hospital.) In pl., the boys who carry the candlesticks, the bread-baskets, table-cloth, and cutlery.

Trade-mark. 1. A scratch on the face; hence *to put one's trade-mark upon one*, to claw the face: spec. of women. 2. A cap (domestic servants').

Tradesman. A thief (q.v.); *a regular tradesman*, an expert thief: also, a compliment applied to any one who thoroughly understands his business whatever it may be.

Trades Union (The). The First (The King's) Dragoon Guards. [At one time most of the officers were sons of tradesmen, which is still an offence in the Cavalry.]

Trading. A veiled form of political treachery: a State Governor is to be elected, and at the same election, say, Presidential electors; the one party agree with their political enemies that, in return for votes for their own candidate for Governor, they will vote and procure votes for the others' candidate for President. The practice is susceptible of numerous combinations and devices (*Walsh*). Whence *trading politician*, a corrupt, venal elector or candidate; one who is regulated by interest rather than principle.

Tragedy Jack. A heavy tragedian: in contempt.

Trail. To quiz, befool, draw out, get at (q.v.): also as subs. *To trash a trail,* to take to water in order to destroy scent: of human beings as well as animals.

Trail-tongs (or **tripes**). A slatternly servant, a dirty puzzle (q.v.). Hence *traily,* slovenly.

Train. 1. To travel by train, usually with 'it': cf. 'bus it, foot it, tram it, etc., whence *to train up,* to hurry. 2. To romp, carry on, act wildly: almost peculiar to the girls of New England (*Bartlett*). 3. To consort with on familiar terms: e.g. Training with such a crowd does not suit me.

Trainer. A militia-man; spec. when called out for periodical training.

Traitor. *There are traitors at table,* Of a loaf turned the wrong side upwards.

Tram. A tramway-car: cf. bus, rail, motor, etc.

Tramp. 1. On the lookout for employment; walking about from place to place. Cant (*Grose*). 2. A cargo boat seeking charter or cargo when and where obtainable; also *tramp-steamer* and *ocean tramp.*

Tramper. A travelling mechanic.

Trampler. A lawyer: see Green-bag (1619).

Trampolin. A double spring-board.

Trampoose. To walk, tramp, wander about: cf. Vamoose. Also *trampous* and *trampoos* (1818).

Traneen. *Not worth a traneen,* valueless, not worth a rush.

Trangdillo. see Twangdillo.

Trangram (**Trangam,** or **Trankum**). A trifle, fallal, ornament; anything or anybody of little or no value (1677).

Tranklement. In pl. intestines: entrails: cf. Trolly-bags.

Transcribbler. (1) A careless copyist: hence (2) a plagiarist (1746).

Transfisticated. Pierced (1600).

Translate. To remanufacture selected parts of old boots and shoes. Also (tailors') to turn (or cut down) a coat or other garment. Whence *translator,* (1) a cobbler; (2) in pl., remade boots and shoes; and (3) a renovating tailor (*B. E.*).

Transmogrify (or **Transmigrify**). To transform, change, alter, or new vamp (*B. E.*). Also as subs., *transmogrification* (1728).

Transnear. To come up with anybody (*Grose*).

Trap. 1. Sagacity, craft, contrivance, penetration; hence *to understand trap,* to be knowing, wideawake (q.v.), alive to one's own interest; *to smell trap,* to suspect: spec. of thieves in spotting a 'tec; *that trap is down,* the trick (or try-on) has failed, it's no go (1704). 2. A sheriff's officer, thief-taker, policeman, or detective (1705). 3. A carriage; a fast name for a conveyance of any kind (*Hotten*). [*Sala*: The old-fashioned gig had, under the seat, a sort of boot extending a few inches beyond the back of the seat. At the beginning of the century gigs were raised upon higher wheels than at present. On this raised vehicle the boot was lengthened behind, holding a brace of dogs for sporting purposes. In these dog-carts (thus named afterwards) the dogs were at first placed in the boot at the front, and I dare say that the noble sportsmen may occasionally have had their heels or their calves bitten by dogs with short tempers, and with scant liking for the confinement of the boot. This led to a great improvement, in in the shape of an open latticed box which was attached to the back of the body of the conveyance, and provided with a trap-door behind for the admission of the dogs. In process of time the latticed box was found very convenient for the carriage of other things besides dogs, and as everything conveyed in the cart (chattels, not people) had to be put in through the trap-door (soon curtailed into trap: compare 'bus for omnibus, cab for cabriolet), the conveyance itself was eventually termed trap.] Hence *trapper,* a horse used in a trap: cf. Vanner, Busser, Cabber, etc., on the model of hunter (1854). 4. Belongings, things (q.v.), sticks and stones (q.v.): usually in a measure of contempt, cf. Rattletrap (1835), 5. Swag (q.v.).

Trapan. 'He that draws in or wheedles a Cull, and Bites him. Trapan'd, c. Sharpt, ensnar'd; to inveigle to ensnare' (*Grose*).

Trapes (or **Traipes**). 1. A sloven, slattern, draggletail: a generic term of contempt for a woman; hence, 2. a going or gadding about, in a more or less careless, objectless, or even lawless fashion: also *trapesing*. As verb (or *to trape*), to gad about; to wander listlessly, or in a slovenly or bedraggled fashion: cf. trespass, Fr., *trépasser* (1673).

Trapper. See Trap.

Trapping. Blackmail, Fr., *chantage*.

Trappy. Tricky, treacherous: also *trappiness*.

Trapstick. In pl., the legs (*Grose*).

Trash. 1. Generic for trifles and worthlessness (now recognised): spec. a harlot: whence, *trashery* (or *trashtrie*), rubbish, odds and ends; *trashily* (or *trashy*), worthless, useless; *trashbag*, a good-for-nothing; *trashmire*, a slattern; and (American) *trash*, a negro term of contempt: see White trash (1602). 2. Money: see Rhino (1590).

Trat. An old woman; a witch (q.v.): in contempt: cf. Trot.

Trav (Felsted School). Travelling money.

Travel. To walk: spec. to go quickly; usually with *along*: e.g. the motor *travelled along*, and no mistake. *To travel out of the record*, to wander from the point at issue, or the matter under discussion (1857). See Bodkin and Traveller.

Traveller. 1. A highwayman; hence *to travel the road*, to take to highway robbery (1707). 2. A tramp (1851). 3. A transported felon, a convict: also *a traveller at His* (or *Her*) *Majesty's expense*. 4. A *bonâ fide* traveller: i.e. a person who, under the Licensing Act, is entitled to demand refreshment during prohibited hours. 5. A thief who changes his quarry from town to town. 6. A swagman (q.v.); hence *traveller's hut*, quarters on a station set aside for swagmen, stockmen, and others not eligible for the squatter's house. *To tip the traveller*, to humbug, to romance, to tell wonderful stories of adventure *à la Munchausen*: also *traveller's tale* and *traveller's talent* (1760).

Travelling-Piquet. A mode of amusement, practised by two persons riding in a carriage, each reckoning towards his game the persons or animals that pass by on the side next them, according to the following estimation:—A parson riding on a gray horse, with blue furniture—game; an old woman under a hedge—ditto; a cat looking out of a window—60; a man, woman, and child in a buggy—40; a man with a woman behind him—30; a flock of sheep—20; a flock of geese—10; a postchaise—5; a horseman—2; a man or woman walking—1 (*Grose*).

Travelling Scholarship. Rustication (q.v.) (1794).

Travelling Tradesman. A respectable mechanic in search of work.

Traverse. See Cart and Tom Cox's Transverse.

Traviata. See Come.

Tray. Three: spec. three months' imprisonment; *tray soddy mits*, threepence halfpenny. [It., *tre sodli*, *mezza*.] *Before one can say treyace*, in a moment.

Tray Trip. An ancient game like Scotch hop (or Hopscotch), played on a pavement, marked out in chalk into different compartments.

Treacle. 1. Thick inferior port. 2. Love-making, spooning (q.v.). *Treacle-moon*, the honeymoon.

Treacle Bolly. See Bolly.

Treacle-sleep. A sluggish torpor.

Treacle Town. 1. Bristol: the city is an important centre of the sugar-refining industry. Also, 2. Macclesfield: in allusion to a hogshead of treacle which burst, and, for a time filled the gutters.

Treacle-wag. Very small beer.

Tread. *To tread on one's toes*, to vex, offend, or injure; *to tread one's shoes straight*, to go carefully, act discreetly, exercise caution (1851). See Black-ox, Boards.

Treader. A shoe.

Treasury (The). The weekly payment (theatrical).

Treat. 1. An entertainment or party; in modern usage spec. of children and schools: hence something paid for by an elder or superior, or given as a token of good-will and affection: e.g. a drink, a dinner, a theatre-ticket, an entertainment, or the like. 2. A turn in a round of drinks: It's my treat. As verb (or *to stand treat*), to bear the expense of refreshments, an outing, or an entertainment; also, It does me a *treat*, that's O.K., real jam and no error (1660). 3. In sarcasm: a nuisance, a terror (q.v.), anybody or anything objectionable.

Treating. Bribery. [A candidate who corruptly gives, causes to be given, or is accessory to giving, or pays, wholly or in part, expenses for meat, drink, entertainment, or provision for any person, before, during, or after an election, in order to be elected, or for being elected, or for corruptly influencing any person to give or refrain from giving his vote, is guilty of treating, and forfeits £50 to any informer, with costs. Every voter who corruptly accepts meat, drink, or entertainment, shall be incapable of voting at such election, and his vote shall be void (*Abstract of Act of Parliament*).]

Treating-house. A restaurant (1704).

Treble X's (The). The 30th Foot, now the 1st battalion East Lancashire Regiment. Also *Triple X's.*

Treddle. See Tread.

Tree. A gallows: also *substantial tree, fatal tree, tree that bears fruit all the year round, the tree with three corners,* etc.; spec. (Biblical and colloquial), the Cross. See Triple-tree and Tyburn-tree (1611). As verb, to perplex, to get at one's mercy, put in a fix, drive to the end of one's resources; whence *treed* (or *up a tree*), cornered, obliged to surrender, done for (q.v.) (1847). Phrases: *At the top of the tree* (see Top); *to tree oneself* (American), to conceal oneself, hide; *lame as a tree,* very lame; *to bark up the wrong tree* (see Bark); *put not the hand between the bark and the tree,* meddle not in family matters; also *between bark and tree* (or *wood*), a well-adjusted bargain (1562). As adj., three: e.g. *treewins,* threepence; *tree-moon,* three months' imprisonment, etc. (*Grose*): see Tray.

Tree of Knowledge (Charterhouse: almost obsolete). The tree under which books, etc., are piled in the interval between morning school and dinner.

Treer (Durham School: obsolete). A boy who avoids organised sports, but plays a private game with one or two friends. [Presumably because played at the trees by the side of the ground.]

Trek. To go away, run off: of South African origin, properly, to yoke oxen to a waggon.

Tremble. Involuntary shaking; spec. when caused by excessive cold, fear, drinking, etc. Also *all of a tremble,* agitated, excited, shivery-shaky (1849).

Trembler. In pl., the extreme Protestant section of early Reformation days: cf. Quaker (1705).

Trencher. 1. A square wooden platter: in general use before plates, and till lately at Winchester. Whence, *trenchering,* eating; *trencher-buffon,* a droll or butt whose place has been taken by the professional diner-out; *trencher-chaplain,* a domestic chaplain; *trencher-fly* (*friend, man,* or *mate*), a hanger-on, smell-feast, parasite, or sponger; whence *to lick the trencher,* to sponge, to lickspittle; *trencher knight* (or *knight of the trencher*), a serving man, or waiter at table: hence *trencher-cloak,* a cloak worn by servants and apprentices; *trencher-man,* (1) a hearty feeder, one who plays a good knife and fork, (2) a cook, and (3) see supra; *trencher-law,* the regulation of diet; *trencher-critic,* an epicurean law-monger; *trim as a trencher,* as trim or exact as may be, as clean as a *trencher* when licked. 2. A college cap, a mortar-board (q.v.). [In shape thought to resemble an inverted trencher with a basin upon it.] Also *trencher-cap.*

Trepan. See Trapan.

Trey. See Tray.

Treyning-cheat. See Trine.

Trial (Harrow). An examination: hence *trials,* the examinations at the end of the summer and winter terms.

Triangle. 1. In pl., a frame of three halberds stuck in the ground and bound at the top: to this soldiers were bound to be flogged: obsolete. 2. In pl., delirium tremens: see Jim-jams.

Triantelope. A comic variation of *Tarantula.* [Applied in Australia to a perfectly harmless spider (though popularly supposed to be poisonous), with mandibles, but which will attack nobody unless itself attacked (1846).

Trib. A prison: see Cage. [That is, *tribulation.*] *He is in trib,* 'he is layd by the Heels, or in a great deal of trouble' (*B. E.*).

Tribe. A number of persons: in contempt (1685).

Tribune. (Winchester: obsolete). A large pew in ante-chapel: reserved for ladies.

Tribute. *To demand tribute of the*

dead, to attempt the impossible or absurd (*Ray*).

Trick. 1. A watch (1798). 2. A turn, a spell: e.g. a trick at the helm (1835). 3. In pl., wantonness: spec. of women. 4. Belongings, things (q.v.), baggage (q.v.). Phrases and colloquialisms: *a trick worth two* (or *a better trick*), (1) a better way, a smarter expedient, and (2) a slightly sarcastic refusal: e.g. No thanks! It's all right, but I know a trick worth two of that; *to do the trick*, to accomplish one's purpose; *a trick with a hole in it* (American) of anything extraordinary; *to trick and tie*, (1) to be equal (sporting), and (2) to have something in reserve. Also (proverbial saying) *Trick for trick*. and a stone in thy foot besides, quoth one, pulling a stone out of his mare's foot, when she bit him on the back, etc. See Bag-of-tricks.

Trick-and-a-half. A master-stroke of roguery: cf. a-lie-and-a-half, the truth: in sarcasm.

Trickett. A long drink of beer. [New South Wales, after Trickett, the champion sculler.]

Tricky. Clever, smart, neat (q.v.): cf. trick (once literary), neat, spruce, trim, elegant.

Trig. 1. A cockscomb, a dandy; as adj. (also *trick*), (1) neat, spruce, in good condition; whence (2) trustworthy, active, clever: also *trig and trim* (or *trig and true, tight*, etc.). [Obsolete, provincial, or colloquial in all uses.] Hence *trigly, trigness*, and other derivatives (1200). 2. A bit of stick, paper, etc., placed by thieves in the keyhole of, or elsewhere about, the door of a house, which they suspect to be uninhabited; if the trig remains unmoved the following day, it is a proof that no person sleeps in the house, on which the gang enter it the ensuing night upon the screw, and frequently meet with a good booty, such as beds, carpets, etc., the family being probably out of town. This operation is called trigging the jigger (*Grose*). As verb (1) To stop: as subs., an obstacle, prop, or skid (1630); (2) to trudge along, to hasten. *To trig it*, to play truant, to charley-wag (q.v.). *To lay a man trigging*, to knock down, to floor (q.v.).

Trig-hall. Open house, Liberty-hall (q.v.).

Trigimate (or **Trigrymate**). An idle she-companion (*B. E.*); an intimate friend (*Halliwell*).

Trike. A tricycle: cf. Bike.

Trillibub. (1) Tripe; hence (2) anything of trifling value or importance. Also *trillabub, trullibubbe, trollybag*, etc. *Tripes and trullibubs*, a fat man (1599).

Trillil. To drink: onomatopœia (1599).

Trim. Dress: spec. state dress (*Grose*); hence as adj. (and adv.), spruce, neat, well-groomed (q.v.); *in sad trim*, dirty, undrest (*B. E.*); *a trim lad*, a spruce, neat, well-trickt man (*B. E.*); *to trim up* (or *forth*), to dress, make clean and neat, set out: spec. to shave or clip the beard (1530). As verb, (1) to call to account, reprove, thrash; hence, *to trim one's jacket*, to drub, dress down, dust one's coat; *trimming*, a beating, scolding, or jacketing; *trimmer*, (*a*) a severe disciplinarian, also of things, and (*b*) see infra. (2) To cheat; hence *trimming*, cheating people of their money (*B. E.*) cf. Shave. See Trimmer.

Trimmer. 1. Orig. nautical: figuratively, a moderate man, one taking a middle course between two extremes. 2. A waverer, apostate, time-server; *to trim*, and *trimming* (q.v.). [In Eng. politics a party which followed the Marquis of Halifax (1680-96) in trimming between the Whigs and the Tories. See trim. 3. Anything specially decisive, of good quality, or noteworthy, a settler (q.v.): spec. (cricket), a well-delivered ball; hence *trimming*, large, big, etc. (1816).

Trimming. In pl., accessories: spec. those accompanying any dish or article of food (1837).

Trim-tram. A trifle, an absurdity, folly, nonsense. As adj. foolish nonsensical, trifling. Also (*Grose*) like master, like man (1547).

Trincum (or **Trinkum**). A trinket.

Trine. 1. To hang: see Ladder. *Trining-cheat*, the gallows (1567). 2. To go (1360).

Trigum-trangum. A whim, a fancy (*B. E.*).

Trinket. 'In pl., porringers, and also any little odd thing, Toies and Trifles' (*B. E.*); toys, baubles, or nick-nacks (*Grose*).

Trip. 1. A short voyage or journey,

an excursion: not in general use till 18th century: as verb (modern), or *to trip it*, to make short journeys: also *tripper* (or *trippist*), (*a*) an excursionist: often in the combination *cheap tripper*; also (*b*) a tram conductor, railway guard, or driver who gets paid by the trip (American) (1360). 2. A failure, mistake, or error: spec. the result of inadvertence or want of thought; an error of the tongue or pen, a stumble, a false step, a miscarriage, or a bastard (*B. E.*) (1628). 3. A moment, the twinkling of an eye (1726). 4. A thief's woman. 5. The *pas de deux* by which harlequin and columbine introduce each scene in the harlequinade. 6. Threepence; 3d.: cf. Thrip, Threp, etc.

Tripe. In pl., the guts: whence the belly. Also in contempt both of persons and things; *tripe-visaged*, flabby, baggy, expressionless; *Mr Double-Tripe*, a fat man; also *tripes and trullibubs*; *tripe-cheek*, a fat blowsy face (1598).

Triplet. One of three at a birth; in pl., three children at a birth.

Triple-tree. The gallows: see Nubbing-cheat, Ladder, and Tree (1635).

Triple X's (The). The 30th Foot, now the 1st battalion East Lancashire Regiment. Also *Treble X's*.

Tripoly. *To come from Tripoly*, to vault or tumble, to perform with spirit (*Halliwell*).

Tripos (Cambridge Univ.) Orig. the stool on which the champion of the University sat at the disputations held with the Father in the Philosophy School on Ash Wednesday, at the admission of Bachelors of Arts to their degree; then it was transferred to the Bachelor himself; still later to the humorous, or, in some cases, scurrilous, speech with which Mr Tripos opened the proceedings, and to the verses of the Bachelors at the Acts, each sheet of verses being called a tripos or tripos-paper. The honours-lists were printed (about 1747-48) on the backs of these verses, and so tripos came to mean an honour-list, and, last of all, the examination itself. Until the year 1824 there was only one tripos, the Mathematical; and up to 1850 only those who had obtained honours in mathematics were admitted to the Classical examination. The degree was not given for that examination till a few years later. There are now nine triposes . . . founded in the following order: Mathematical, Classical, Moral Sciences, Natural Sciences, Theological, Law, History, Semitic and Indian Languages, with a Mediæval and Modern Languages tripos from 1885.

Tripper. See Trip.

Tripping up. See Carry the stick.

Tristram. *Sir Tristram's Knot*, a halter; *to tie Sir Tristram's Knot*, to hang: see Ladder.

Triumph. *To ride triumph*, to go helter-skelter, rough-shod, full tilt (1759).

Trivet. *Right as a trivet*, as right, secure, or good as may be. *To suit to a trivet*, to suit perfectly: see Right (1837).

Troc. The Trocadero: formerly Music Hall, now Restaurant.

Trojan. A term of commendation: (1) a plucky fellow, a sticker (q.v.); and (2) a familiar address, either to equals or inferiors; hence *trusty Trojan*, a sure friend or confidant: also *trusty trout* (1594). (3) A boon companion, a loose fish (q.v.); occasionally (but loosely) a thief (1598).

Troll. To loiter and saunter about (*B. E.*); cf. Trull; as subs. (or *trollocks*), a slattern: see Trull.

Trolloll. To sing in a jovial, rollicking fashion (*B. E.*) (1740).

Trollop. 1. A lusty, coarse ramp or tomrig (*B. E.*), a hedge-whore, also, 2. a generic reproach: of women; whence *trolloping* (*trollopish* or *trollopy*), wanton, filthy, draggletail; as verb (or *to trollop about*), to gad about: also *trollopee*, a loose dress for women: cf. *Loose-bodied* (1641).

Trollybags. Tripe.

Trolly-lolly. Coarse lace once much in fashion, now worn only by the meaner sort (*B. E.*).

Trollywags. Trousers, breeches; see Kicks.

Tronk. A prison: see Cage.

Trooper. A half-crown (*B. E.*). Phrases: *to swear like a trooper* (a simile of hard swearing), to volley oaths till the air is blue; you'll die the death of a *trooper's horse* (a jocular method of telling any one he will be hanged, i.e. will die with his shoes on).

Trork. A quart.

Tros. Sort: spec. of anything bad or not to one's liking. Thus *trosseno*, a bad day, coin, etc.; also *dabtros.*

Trot (or Trat). 1. An old woman: in contempt: usually *old trot*, a bawd: a sorry base old woman (*B. E.*): a decrepit old woman (*Grose*) (1512). 2. An endearment: of a child learning to run (1854). 3. A pony (q.v.), crib (q.v.); whence, as verb (or *to trot a lesson*), to use a translation or other adventitious aid to study. As (1) to steal in broad daylight; (2) generic for doing; thus *to trot out* (express) *an opinion*; *to trot out* (escort) *a judy*; *to trot out* (sing) *a song*; *to trot out* (spend) *the pieces*, and so forth; *to trot round*, to take a turn round the town, the halls, etc.; *on the trot*, on the go (q.v.), pegging away; *dog-trot*, a gentle pace; *to trot up*, to bid against, to run up prices; He lies as fast as a dog can *trot* (of a persistent liar).

Trot-cosy. A great coat with cowl, close buttoned (1814).

Trotter. 1. In pl., the feet: orig. of sheep: whence *shake* (*box*, or *move*) *your trotters*! Begone! troop off! *To shake one's trotters at Bilby's Ball* (where the sheriff pays the fiddlers), to be put in the stocks (*Grose*: perhaps the Bilboes ball). *Trotter-cases* (or *boxes*), boots or shoes (1838). 2. A tailor's assistant: he goes on round for orders; also (dressmakers's and milliners'), a messenger: Fr., *trottin.*

Trouble. (1) Imprisonment; (2) child-bed, pregnancy (conventional); (3) a to-do (q.v.): e.g. what's the trouble? what's going on? Hence *in trouble*, (1) arrested, quodded (q.v.); (2) pregnant, lumpy (q.v.); *to get into trouble*, to be found out and punished (1555). Also in combination: *trouble-house*, a disturber of family concord; *trouble-mirth*, a wet-blanket, spoil-sport, mar-all; *trouble-rest*, an element of discord, sickness, anything tending to unhappiness or discomfort; *trouble-state* (or *town*), a rebel, an agitator, a drunk and disorderly. Also proverbial sayings: that horse is *troubled* with corns (i.e. foundered); *troubles* never come singly.

Trounce. To vex, trouble, punish; now to beat severely. Whence *trouncing*, a drubbing (1551).

Trout. See Nor' Loch trout, and Peculiar river.

Trowel. *To lay on with a trowel*, (1) to flatter or exaggerate grossly; to butter (q.v.). Also (2) to lie; and (3) to use powder, paint, or the like, without stint (1600).

Trub. A slattern, a short squat woman (*Ainsworth*). Also *trubagully*, a short dirty ragged fellow, accustomed to performing the most menial offices (*Halliwell*).

Truck. 1. Intercourse, dealing; e.g. I'll have no truck with you. Orig. (and still colloquial American), exchange, trading, espec. the barter of small commodities; whence (in contempt) odds and ends, rubbish, and spec. bad food, cagmag (q.v.), mullock (q.v.). Also (now recognised) *truck-system* (*truck-shop*), etc. the payment of wages in kind instead of money: illegal since 1870-75. As verb (originally and still literary), to swop, barter, or exchange (1608). 2. In pl., trousers: see Kicks. 3. A hat: see Golgotha.

Truckle-bed. In saying, To stumble at the *truckle* (or *trundle*) bed (*Ray*), to mistake the chambermaid's bed for his wife's. [Formerly a low bed on small wheels or castors was trundled under a standing-bed in the daytime, and drawn out at night for a servant to sleep on] (1660).

True. Honest: usually in contrast with thievish, or *true man* v. *thief*, Also (proverbial) *true as true* (*as the gospel*, *God in Heaven*, *as I stand here*, etc.), as true as may be (1400).

True-blue. 1. Unmistakable, honest, staunch, dependable: as subs., a thoroughly reliable good fellow, a stalwart: also *Blue* (q.v.). [Blue is regarded as the colour or emblem of constancy, but whether in reference to the blue of sky or sea (both proverbially deceitful) or the fastness of some dye (e.g. Coventry blue) is unknown.] Hence spec. 2. the 17th century, the Scotch Presbyterians or Whigs: the Covenanters had adopted blue as against the Royal red; in later times staunchly Liberal or Tory, according to the choice made of blue as a party-colour by either, but mostly Conservative (1500).

True Inwardness. The real meaning, bottom (q.v.) facts, final result or end of a matter.

Truepenny. A familiar address: in commendation, but sometimes loosely used: also (as in old boy) *Old Truepenny* (1596).

Truff. To steal: see Prig (1758).

Trull. A wanton, a trollop (q.v.); a soldier's, beggar's, or tinker's wife or wench (*B. E.*) (1529).

Truly. See By my truly, and Yours truly.

Trump. 1. A good fellow, a friend in need, one (*Grose*) who displays courage on every suit: the highest measure of praise (1774). 2. A Jew's harp: whence *tongue of the trump*, a chief, an essential: properly the steel spring or reed by which the sound is produced. Phrases: *to be put to one's trumps*, to be in difficulties, driven to the last shift, or full exertion of one's strength; *to turn up trumps*, to fall out fortunately: e.g. something may *turn up trumps*, something lucky may happen: all his cards are *trumps*', he is exceedingly fortunate (1593).

Trumpery. 'Old Ware, old Stuff, as old Hats, Boots, Shoes,' etc. (*B. E.*); goods of no value, rubbish (*Grose*): also *trash* and *trumpery*, and (proverbial), For want of good company, welcome trumpery. Whence (modern) generic for showy trashiness, and as adj., meretricious, worthless (1574).

Trumpet. *To blow* (or *sound*) *one's own trumpet*, to praise (or talk about) oneself, to brag. Hence, his *trumpeter* is dead (of a braggart).

Trumpeter. *King of Spain's* (or *Spanish*) *trumpeter*, a braying ass, i.e. Don Key; his *trumpeter* is dead (see Trumpet); He would make a good *trumpeter*, for he smells strong: of one with foetid breath.

Trundler. In pl. peas (*B. E.*).

Trundling-cheat. A wheeled vehicle; a cart or coach: see Cheat (1630).

Trunk. 1. A blockhead, a dunce (1656). 2. In pl. trunk-hose: cf. Smalls, Tops, Tights, etc. Also breeches: see Kicks, and bathing-drawers (1613). 3. A nose (*B. E.*). How's your old *trunk*? a jeer at a big-nosed man; *to shove a trunk*, to poke one's nose in, to introduce oneself unasked into any place or company (*Grose*).

Trunkmaker-like. More noise than work (*Grose*).

Trunk-work. Underhand (or secret) dealing: cf. Back-door work (1604).

Trusted alone. This bit of flash is made use of in speaking of any knowing or experienced person, meaning that he is so deep as to the tricks of the town that he may be *trusted alone* in any company without danger to himself (*Grose*).

Trusty. 1. An overcoat. 2. A convict with special privileges, such as a ticket of leave. See Trojan.

Trut. An exclamation of contempt.

Truth. *Tell the truth and shame the devil*, to reveal all at any cost (1469).

Try. An attempt, endeavour, trial, experiment: espec. (modern) a *try-on*, an attempt at besting (q.v.); hence *to try it on*, to seek to outwit, get the better of, fleece, cheat, etc.: see Gammon. *To try it on a dog*, to experiment at another's expense or risk; *to try on*, to live by thieving: *coves who try it on*, professed thieves (1609). Phrases and colloquialisms: *to try a fall with*, to compete, contest; *to try back*, to revert to, to retrace one's steps: as to a former position, standpoint, or statement, etc., with a view to recover something missed, or lost: hence *try back* (1857).

Tryning. See Trine.

Tub. 1. A pulpit. Hence *tub-drubber* (*pounder*, *preacher*, *thumper*, or *tubster*), a ranting divine: spec., in reproach, of Dissenters (*Grose*, a Presbyterian parson): also *tub-thumping*, subs. and adj. (1661). 2. A bath: spec. a sponge-bath, but also (loosely) a dip (q.v.). Also as verb (1610). 3. A broad-bottomed, slow-sailing boat; also (loosely) a vessel of any kind; at the Universities, a boat for rowing practice; hence *tubbing*, boating, rowing practice; *to get tubbed*, to be taught to row (1853). 4. A low-wheeled and deep-welled gig or village cart, a governess-car. 5. (Winchester). A chest in Hall into which Dispars (q.v.) not taken by the boys were put; whence *Præfect of tub*, a præfect whose duty was to examine the quality of meat sent in by the butcher, and after dinner to supervise the collection and distribution of the remains: obsolete; whence (also) *tub-mess*, the table at which the Senior Præfects sat in Hall (see Farmer, *Public School Word-Book*). *A tale of a tub*; any kind of nonsense, fooling, or absurdity, a cock-and-bull story (q.v.), rot (q.v.) (1538). *To throw a tub to a whale,* (1) to bait the hook, give a sop, or make capital; (2) to throw dust in the eyes, to divert attention, to emphasise small matters so that attention is distracted from essentials (1809). *A cat under a tub,* a supposed cause of delay. *Every tub* (*vat,* etc.) *should stand on its own bottom,* a simile of independence (1538). See Tubby.

Tubbing. 1. Imprisonment. 2. See Tub.

Tubman. In the courts of exchequer, two of the most experienced barristers, called the post-man and *tub-man* (from the places in which they sit), have also a precedence in motions [The old Exchequer Court is now merged in the High Court of Justice, but the appointments are still made.]

Tubby (Christ's Hospital). 1. A male servant of the school: his business was the care of the latrine tubs: the name is still retained for the lavatory-man. 2. A big-bellied man, fatty (q.v.), forty-guts (q.v.). As adj. (or *tubbish*), round-bellied, swag-bellied: like a tub (1796).

Tubs. A butterman.

Tuck. 1. Generic for edibles; (2) an appetite: spec. (schools') pastry, sweet-stuff, and the like; whence *tuck-shop,* a pastrycook's; *tuck-parcel* (Charterhouse), a hamper from home: nearly obsolete; also (Australian), *tucker,* (1) food, grub (q.v.), spec. (2) barely sufficient on which to live, bare bread-and-cheese; as verb (or *to tuck in*), to eat heartily: *tuck-in* (or *tuck-out*), a square meal. As verb, If any of the Freshmen came off dull or not cleverly, some of the . . . Seniors would tuck them—that is set the nail of their Thumb to their chin, just under the Lipp, and by the help of their other fingers under the Chin, they would give him a mark which would sometimes produce blood (*Wood*). *To tuck up,* (1) to hang: see Ladder; hence *tucked up,* hanged; *Tuck-'em-fair,* an execution (1696); (2) to perplex, to put in a fix or difficulty, to cramp. *To tuck on,* to unduly increase or enhance: e.g. That horse is not worth half what you gave for him; the dealer has *tucked it on* to you pretty well: cf. Stick it on. See Twopenny.

Tucker. See Tuck.

Tuckered. *Tuckered out,* tired out (1840).

Tucker-in (or **Tucker-up**). A chamber-maid: cf. Scotch warming-pan.

Tuck-man. A moneyed partner.

Tuel (or **Tewel**). The fundament (*Halliwell*).

Tuft. 1. A young nobleman: students of rank formerly wore a gold tuft or tassel in their cap (obsolete); whence *tuft-hunter,* a hanger-on to a man of title, a sycophant, toady, lick-spittle; *tuft-hunting,* sponging (q.v.) on men of title or means. 2. An imperial, a goat's beard (1842).

Tug (Eton). A Colleger; a scholar; on the foundation; hence *tuggery* College. [*Gt. Public Schools*: from the *toga* worn by Collegers to distinguish them from the rest of the school.] As adj. (Winchester) stale, ordinary, vapid, common. Whence *tugs,* stale news; *tug-clothes,* everyday clothes; *tug-jaw,* wearisome talk. Phrases: *To hold one tug,* to keep busy, to task-drive; *to hold tug,* to stand hard work, or severe strain; *tug of war* (see War) (1667).

Tug-mutton. A glutton.

Tui (Winchester). Tuition.

Tulip. *Go it, my tulip,* a characteristic street phrase: an echo of the tulipo-mania of 1842, itself a recrudescence of the great craze of 1634.

Tulip-sauce. A kiss, kissing.

Tum. Stylish, proper, spiff, A1.

Tumbies. Ablutions, tubbing (q.v.) (1853).

Tumble. To dance. [Formerly dance and tumble were popularly synonymous; moreover, the professional dancers of mediæval times were also acrobats; and, pictorially, Herodias' daughter is often represented as walking on her hands. Hence *tumbler* (or *tumbester*), a female dancer, and (modern) an acrobat; as subs. (1) a dance; and (2) a catherine wheel (q.v.) (1380). 2. To understand, perceive, assent to, accept: cf. fall in with, concur, and Fr., *tombre d'accord.* 3. (Stock Exchange). To fall rapidly in value: of prices. Phrases: *To tumble in,* to go to bed; *to tumble up,* (*a*) to rise from one's bed, and (*b*) to come, or move quickly: also *to tumble along*; *to tumble to,* to set to vigorously: also see verb; *to take a tumble to oneself*, to take oneself to task; to kick oneself (q.v.); *to tumble to the racket* (Am. pol.), see Racket; *to tumble on one's feet*, to escape without injury, to come out on top (q.v.).

Tumbler. In various colloquial or semi-colloquial usages denoting instability or eccentric movement. Thus (1) a glass rounded or pointed at the bottom, so that it could not be set down except when empty—a silent reminder of no heeltaps! and to pass the bottle: orig. a low Silver Cup to Drink out of (*B. E.*): nowadays applied to any glass that is cylindrical in shape, without a stem; (2) a variety of pigeon: in flight the bird often drops without wing-play; (3) a dog used in coursing rabbits, a Coney Dog (*B. E.*): it tumbles about in a careless fashion until, within reach of its prey, it seizes it with a sudden spring; (4) a porpoise; (5) a variety of printing machine: from the rocking or tumbling movement of the cylinder towards the impressive surface; (6) a cart: properly tumbrel; whence *to nap the flog at* (or *to shove*) *the tumbler*, to be whipped at the cart's-tail (*B. E.*) (1721); (7) A sharper employed to draw in pigeons to game (*B. E.*); (8) a worthless horse; a screw (q.v.); (9) a German Baptist or Dunker: the sect was founded by Alexander Mack about A.D. 1708. Persecution drove them in 1723 to the United States, where they founded a church at a German town in Pennsylvania: they separate the sexes in worship, are vegetarians, and are called Tumblers from their mode of baptism, which is by putting the person, whilst kneeling, head first under water; (10) a street rowdy: early part of the eighteenth century.

Tumble-down. Dilapidated, ruinous, rattletrap (q.v.) (1839).

Tummy. The stomach: also *tum-tum.*

Tump. To pull, to draw.

Tumptsner. A settler: e.g. That'll be a *tumptsner* for the old gentleman.

Tum-tum. A dog-cart. See Tummy.

Tun. 1. A tippler: see Lushington. 2. At Pembroke (Oxford) a small silver cup containing half a pint; sometimes with a whistle handle, which cannot be blown until the cup is empty.

Tun-belly. A fat, round-bellied man, a pot-belly, a corporation (q.v.); hence *tun-bellied*, paunchy, very corpulent, bellied like a tun: cf. *tun-great*, with a circumference of the size of a tun.

Tund (Winchester). To thrash, *tunding*, a thrashing.

Tune. To beat: also *to tune up*: e.g. The old man *tuned him up* delightfully, He got a good thrashing: cf. I'll make you sing another tune, a threat of corporal punishment (*Grose*). *The tune the cow* (or *old cow*) *died of*, (1) a grotesque or unpleasant noise; (2) a homily instead of alms. [From an old ballad.] Colloquialisms: *To the tune of*, to the sum, amount, or measure of [a stated figure, etc.]; *to change one's tune* (or *note*), to alter one's way of talking, manner, or demand; to change from laughter to tears; *to sing another tune* (see Sing); *to tune up*, to commence (1578).

Tunker. A street-preacher. [?Dunker.]

Tunnel. A nostril (1596).

Tunnel-grunter. Usually in pl., potatoes.

Tup. To salute in drinking.

Tuppence (or **Tuppeny**). See Twopenny.

Tup-running. A rural sport practised at wakes and fairs in Derbyshire; a ram whose tail is well soaped and greased, is turned out to the multitude; any one that can take him by the tail, and hold him fast, is to have him for his own (*Grose*).

Turf. 1. (Winchester). The pitch: at cricket, the field being long grass. 2. (Felsted School). the cricket field: always with the definite article. As verb, (Derby School) (1) to send to bed at bedtime; (2) (Marlborough School), to chastise.

Turk. 1. A sword: cf. Andrew, Fox, Toledo (1638). 2. A savage fellow; a cruel hard-hearted man (*B. E.*); a Tartar (q.v.). Also *to turn Turk*, to turn renegade, to change for the worse, to go off (q.v.). *To Turkise*, to play the Turk; *Turkish treatment*, barbarous usage, very sharp or ill dealing in business (*B. E.*); *Turkish shore*, Lambeth, Southwark, and Rotherhithe sides of the Thames (*Grose*); *Turk-a-tenpence*, a term of contempt: cf. tenpenny infidel (a term applied to the Turk in Dekker's *Westward Hoe*, 1607) and Turk, sense 1, with an eye on tenpenny sword, a poor tool. In modern usage *Turk* has lost somewhat of its rigorous meaning, and is frequently employed as a half-jesting endearment to a mischievous, destructive boy: e.g. You young Turk! (1596). 3. A target: a dummy made up of cloth and rags.

Turkey. *To have a turkey on one's back*, to be drunk: see Screwed. See Talk.

Turkey-merchant. 1. A driver of Turkies (*B. E.*); a poulterer (*Grose*); a chicken-thief (tramps'). 2. A dealer in contraband silk.

Turk's-head. 1. A long broom: used for sweeping ceilings and the like. See Pope's-head. 2. An ornamental knot worked on to a rope: in shape supposed to resemble a turban.

Turn. 1. A trick, stratagem, device; hence as verb, to trick, beguile, cheat, get at (q.v.) (1383). 2. An execution: formerly, the criminal stood on a ladder which, at a given signal, was turned over (cf. New-drop): also *to turn off*, and *to turn over*. *Turning-tree*, the gallows: see Nubbing-cheat (1542). 3. A walk: spec. a short walk involving a speedy return to the starting-point: as a promenade on the deck of a vessel, round a garden, etc. (1601). 4. A spell of work or a job in rotation with others: e.g. (theatrical), a public appearance on the stage, preceding or following others (1859). 5. A bonus over and above the legal rate of interest: charged by bankers on advances against stock when money is tight. 6. A nervous shock, a qualm, nausea: as verb, to make sick, disgusted, silly: also *to turn up* or *to turn the stomach*: whence *turned up*, queasy, ill, sick, as from a shock, sea-sickness, drinking, smoking, etc. (1605). *To turn up*, (1) to desist, abandon an object, (pursuit or quest), change one's habits or course of life; thus *to turn up* (to forsake) *a mistress*, to bury a moll (q.v.); *to turn up* (cut) *an acquaintance*; *to turn up* (cease dealing with) *a tradesman*; *to turn up* (quit) *a crowd*; *to turn up a flat sweet*, to leave a pigeon (q.v.) in good humour after fleecing him, and so forth (*Grose*); (2) (Marlborough School), to chastise—with cane, stick, or fives-bat. *A good* (*ill*, *shrewd*, etc.) *turn*, a kind (spiteful or clever, etc.) act or deed: also proverbially, One good turn deserves another (also ill turn, etc.) (1400). *Turn* occurs in a multitude of phrases, all more or less colloquial. Thus *to turn* (to perfect or polish) *a phrase*, *sentence*, etc.; *to turn over* (mentally consider) *a matter*: also *to turn about*; *to turn the corner*, to begin to mend in health, pocket, prospects, etc.; *to turn upside down* (*inside out*, or *the house out of windows*, etc.), to cause a commotion, or disturbance, to search thoroughly; *to turn over a new leaf*, to reform, to make a fresh start; *to turn* (distract) *one's attention*; *to turn one's head*, to unbalance the judgment, make crazy, flighty, or arrogant; *to turn* (or *be turned of*) *fifteen* (or any age), to pass (or have advanced beyond) one's fifteenth birthday, to be older than; *to turn against*, to become unfriendly, hostile to; *to turn one's flank*, to circumvent, outwit; *to turn away* (or *off*), to dismiss, sack (q.v.); *to turn* (or *send*) *down* (University), (1) to rusticate, and (2) to snub, suppress (American); *to turn off* (execute, accomplish, produce) *a contract*, *design*, or *book*; *to turn off* (marry) *a couple*; *to turn off* (foil, counteract, or ignore) *a joke*, *slight*, etc.; *to turn one's coat* (see Turncoat); *to turn one's hand to*, to apply (or adapt) oneself; *to turn out* (train) *a scholar*, *soldier*, etc.; *to turn out* (produce) so much in a week, month, etc.; *to turn out* (show) *one's hand*: spec. at cards; *to turn out* (or *be turned out*) to dress (or be clothed by one's tailor) with care: whence *well turned out*, well-groomed (q.v.): see Turn-out; *to turn over* (transfer) *a business*; *to turn over* (sell) *goods*; *to be turned over* (thieves'), (1) to be stopped by the police and searched, (2) to be remanded, and (3) to be acquitted for lack of evidence; *to turn one's back on* (see Back); *to turn cat in the pan* (see Cat); *to turn the cold shoulder* (see Cold Shoulder); *to turn the paunch*, to vomit; *to turn the stomach*, to cause nausea; *to turn the tables* (see Table); *to turn an honest penny* (see Penny); *to turn rusty* (see Rusty); *to turn to the right-about*, to dismiss summarily: see Right; *to turn turtle* (nautical), to capsize: of a boat or vessel ; *to turn up one's nose*, to make a gesture of contempt, to show disgust ; *to turn up one's eyes*, to make a gesture of (1) surprise, and (2) of mock sanctity ; *to turn upon*, (1) to retort, and (2) to show anger, resentment, or fight, to pay back as good as sent ; *to turn up one's toes*, to die : see Toe ; *to turn in*, to go to bed ; *to turn out*, (1) to rise, to get out of bed, (2) to come abroad, (3) to come out on strike (workmen's), and (4) to result, end, prove : *to turn to*, to set to work ; *to turn Turk* (see Turk) ; *to turn up*, (1) to happen, to occur, (2) to arrest (thieves'), (3) to acquit (thieves') ; *to be turned over* : see To turn up, *supra* ; *not to turn a hair* to take things quietly ; *to turn a cartwheel* : see Cartwheel ; *to take a turn*, to join in ; *to turn it* (or *the game*) *up*, to desist, quit, abscond, change one's tactics ; *to turn up a trump*, to meet with good fortune, to improve one's chances ; *to a turn*, to a nicety : as a roasted joint cooked to a *turn* of the spit ; *turned round*, at a loss, puzzled : spec. of that momentary mental ignorance of one's exact whereabouts which sometimes occurs in a place that is normally perfectly well known ; *turn and turn about*, in regular succession, alternate duty, one resting while the other works.

Turnabout. 1. An innovator (1692). 2. A disease in cattle, the staggers (q.v.) (1618). 3. A merry-go-round, a run-around (1889).

Turn-back. A coward.

Turncoat. A renegade, an apostate, he that quits one and embraces another party (*B. E.*), one who has changed his party from interested motives (*Grose*). Hence *to turn coat* (or *a coat*), to change, to pervert (1576).

Turning-tree. See Turn.

Turnip. A watch : spec. an old-fashioned silver watch which in size approached a turnip : also *frying-pan* (see Warming - pan). Phrases : *To give turnips*, to get rid of a person by hook or by crook : *to get turnips*, to be taken in, jilted : a play on turn-up ; *one's head to a turnip*, a fanciful bet : cf. Lombard Street to a China orange, etc. (1694).

Turnip - pated. White or fair-haired (*B. E.*).

Turn-out. (1) A parade, also (2) an assembly : spec. a number of people gathered together in the open air. (3) a strike ; also (4) a striker (singly and collectively) ; (5) a shunting-line, a side-track, a railway siding ; (6) production, output ; (7) a carriage, coach, or any vehicle with horses, harness, and other appointments ; also (latterly) applied to motor-cars ; (8) dress, get-up (q.v.) : cf. to turn out ; (9) an interval (1851).

Turnpike-man. A parson : because the clergy collect their tolls at our entrance into and exit from the world (*Grose*).

Turnpike-sailor. A beggar posing as a distressed sailor (1851).

Turn - tail. A coward, renegade, pervert. *To turn tail*, (1) to change sides, (2) to turn one's back upon, and (3) to run away, to shirk (1586).

Turn-tippet. A time-server, turncoat (q.v.) ; hence *to turn tippet*, to change right about (1556).

Turn-up. 1. A fight produced from a hasty quarrel, a casual boxing-match (*Grose*), a shindy, a scrimmage. 2. An unexpected event, or result ; a chance encounter, spec. a sudden piece of luck : see Turn.

Turpentine State. North Carolina : its people are Tarheels (q.v.).

Turpin. A kettle. [*Halliwell* : A cant term.]

Turtle. See Turn.

Turtle Dove. In pl., a pair of gloves : also *turtles*.

Turvy-topsy. See Topsy-turvy.

Tush (or **Twish**). An expression of impatience, contempt, or rebuke : also as verb, and tushing, subs. : cf. Tut (1400).

Tusheroon. A crown piece, 5s. : see Rhino.

Tussey. A low drunken fellow : cf. Tosticated.

Tussicated. Driven about, tormented (*Halliwell*).

Tussle. A struggle, a contest, a tousle (q.v.). Also as verb, to scuffle, to struggle.

Tussocker (New Zealand). A sundowner (q.v.).

Tut. Tush (q.v.), pish (q.v.). Also *tuts !* and as verb. *To make tuts for*, to make light of (1500). *A tut for a tush*, a tit for tat (q.v.) : see Tush.

Tutivillus. An old name for a celebrated demon, who is said to have collected all the fragments of words which the priests had skipped over or mutiliated in the performance of the service, and carried them to hell.

Tutting. A tea-drinking for women, succeeded by stronger potations in company of the other sex, and ending in ribaldry and debauchery. So called only, I believe, in Lincoln; in other places in the country it is known as a bun-feast. Now obsolete, or nearly so (*Halliwell*).

Tuttle (or **Tuttle Nask**). The Bridewell in Tuttle-Fields (*B. E.*): closed in 1878.

Tut-work. Piece work.

Tuz I (Felsted School). The same as Fainits (q.v.), Bags I (q.v.).

Twaddle (**Twattle**, etc.). 1 Gabble, stuff and nonsense (q.v.); 2. a prosy chatterbox, babbler, driveller: also *twaddler* (*twattler*, *twattle-basket*, or *twattle-brains*). As verb, to clack, prate, rattle on; *twaddling* (or *twaddley*), (1) silly, loquacious, inane; (2) trifling, paltry, petty; also reduplicated in *twittle-twattle.* (3) Perplexity, confusion; or anything else: a fashionable term that for a while succeeded that of *bore* (*Grose*); (4) a diminutive person.

Twang. A smack or ill taste (*B. E.*); hence (modern), a decided flavour (1707). *To go off twanging*, to go well, swimmingly: cf. as good as ever twanged, as good as may be (1629).

Twangdillo (or **Trangdillo**). See Twangle.

Twangey (or **Stangey**). A tailor: north country (*Grose*).

Twangle. That is twang: also *twank*, *twangdillo*, *twangling*, and as verb.

Twank (Durham School). To cane [*Halliwell*: to give a smart slap with the flat of the hand, a stick, etc., *East*].

Twanking. Big, unwieldy: a generic intensitive.

Twatterlight. See Twitter-light.

Twattle. See Twaddle.

Tweague (or **Tweak**). Passion, peevishness: also *tweaguy*; *in a tweak*, in a heavy taking, much vext, or very angry (*B. E.*).

Tweak. 1. A jerk, twinge, pinch: as verb, to twitch, pull, or snatch: usually in phrases *to tweak one's nose*. *Tweaker* (Felsted School: obsolete), a catapult (1420). 2. A dilemma (1706): also as verb, to perplex (1731). See Tweague.

Tweedle. A Brummagem ring of good appearance used for fraudulent purposes. See Twiddle.

Tweedledum and Tweedledee (The difference between). No difference at all, save in sound; a distinction without a difference. [*Ency. Dict.*: The expression arose in the eighteenth century, when there was a dispute between the admirers of Bononcini and those of Handel, as to the respective merits of these musicians. Among the first were the Duke of Marlborough and most of the nobility; among the latter the Prince of Wales, Pope, and Arbuthnot.] (1730).

Tweenie. A between-maid.

Twelve. *After twelve* (Eton). From noon till 2 p.m.

Twelve Apostles (Cambridge University). 1. The last twelve in the Mathematical Tripos (*Grose*). 2. (Stonyhurst). The first twelve Stonyhurst students.

Twelve Godfathers. A jury. [*Hotten*: they name the nature of a crime; murder or manslaughter, felony or misdemeanour.] You'll be christened by twelve godfathers some day (a taunt).

Twelvepenny. Trifling, of small value: frequently contemptuous (1614).

Twelver. A shilling; 1s.: see Rhino.

Twenty. 1. An indefinite number: also *twenty and twenty* (1593). 2. (Rugby). The Sixth Form.

Twenty-two and Twenty-two (Winchester). Football: twenty-two a side.

Twibill. A street ruffian, a roaring-boy (q.v.): seventeenth century.

Twice. *At twice*, on a second trial; in two distinct attempts: cf. You've guessed it in once (1611).

Twice-laid. A hash-up of fish and potatoes: cf. Resurrection-pie.

Twicer. A printer who works at press as well as at case.

Twiddle (or **Tweedle**). 1. To finger idly and lightly: usually in phrase, to *twiddle* one's fingers; to fiddle (q.v.), wriggle, or twist about; to be busy about trifles; to wheedle, to coax: e.g. She can twiddle him round her little finger: cf. Twirl (1540).

Twiddlepoop. An effeminate-looking fellow (*Grose*).

Twig. 1. Style, fashion, method; hence as adj., stylish, handsome; *in good* (or *prime*) *twig*, clever, well-dressed, in good spirits (*Grose*). *To put out of twig*, to alter, disguise, so to change as to make unrecognisable (*Vaux*). 2. (Marlborough: obsolete). The Headmaster [in whose authority rested the use of the birch.] As verb, (1) to watch, observe, mark. Also (2) to understand, see (q.v.), tumble to (q.v.); whence (in humorous imitation of Fr., *comprenez-vous*) twiggez-vous: see Twug (1763); (3) to snap asunder, break off: e.g. twig the darbies, knock off the irons. *To measure a twig*, to act absurdly. See Hop the twig.

Twilight. A corruption of toilet: (old) a dressing-cloth, towel, or napkin (1684).

Twine. To ring the changes (q.v.).

Twinkler. (1) In pl., the eyes. Also (2) a star, and (3) a light (thieves')

Twinkling. See Bedpost.

Twins. *To have twins*, to take dinner and tea at one meal, to box Harry (q.v.).

Twire (Tweer, Tour, and Towre). 1. To peep, to look round cautiously, to peer: cf. Tower. [Tour (the canting form: see Tower) possibly originated in twire being carelessly written.] Whence 2. (old), to leer, to make eyes. As subs. a glance, leer. *Twirepipe*, a peeping Tom (1598).

Twirl. A skeleton key: see Jemmy. *To twirl one's thumbs*, to be idle: cf. cool one's heels: cf. Twiddle.

Twish. An exclamation of contempt.

Twiss. A chamber-mug, it (q.v.). [*Grose*: A Mr. Richard Twiss having . . . given a very unfavourable description of the Irish character, some utensils were made with his portrait at the bottom.

Twist. 1. The fourchure, the crutch (1568). 2. A bent, turn, cast: a variation from what is usually normal and proper. Thus *a twisted vision*, a wrong or cussed way of looking at things; *a twisted* (a lying) *tongue*; whence *twister*, a falsehood or gross exaggeration; *twisted* brogulish) *speech*, etc. Also *twisty* (or *twistical*), awkward, crooked (q.v.), funny (q.v.); *twistable*, easily influenced. 3. An appetite; hence *to twist it down* (or *lustily*), to feed like a farmer (*B. E.*), to eat heartily (*Grose*). Fr., *crampe au pylore*. 4. (*a*) A mixture of tea and coffee (*B. E.*); also (*b*) brandy, beer, and eggs (*Grose*); and (*c*) brandy and gin. 5. (Winchester). A stick spirally marked by a creeper having grown round it: also *twister*. As verb, to hang: see Ladder. Hence *twisted*, hanged (1823). 6. A turn given to the wrist in delivery so that a ball breaks from the straight; whence *twister*, a ball so delivered by the bowler (also, at billiards, a ball that screws or spins along with a twist); hence (figuratively, anything that puzzles or staggers (1857). *A twist on the shorts*, a Wall Street phrase, used where the shorts (q.v.) have undersold heavily, and the market has been artificially raised, compelling them to settle at ruinous rates. *To twist* (or *wind*) *round one's finger*, to control or influence completely, to make submissive: usually of women. See Tail.

Twit. To hit in the teeth (*B. E.*) to reproach a person or remind him of favours conferred (*Grose*). *Twitty*, cross, ill-tempered.

Twitch. *To twitch a twelve*, to get the highest number of marks.

Twitcher. 1. A severe blow. 2. In pl., small pincers.

Twitchetty. Nervous, fidgety, uncertain: also *twitchy*.

Twitter. *All of a twitter*, frightened nervous, fidgety: also *in* (or *on*) *the twitters*.

Twitter-light. Twilight: also *twatterlight* (1607).

Twittle. To chatter, babble, tattle. Hence *twittle-twat*, a chatterbox; *twittle-twattle*, gabble, idle talk (1582);

Twittoc. Two (*Grose*).

Two. Doubly: e.g. *two fools*, twice foolish; *two knaves*, doubly foolish (1571). *Two thieves beating a rogue*, a man's arms when beating his sides for warmth, beating the booby (q.v.), cuffing Jonas (q.v.). See Bow.

Twoer. 1. A florin. 2. A hansom cab.

Two-eyed Steak. A bloater: see Glasgow Magistrate.

Twofer. A wanton.

Two Fives (The). The second battalion Border Regiment, formerly the 55th Foot.

Two-foot Rule. A fool.

Two Fours (The). The first battalion Essex Regiment, late the 44th Foot.

Two-handed. 1. Great: spec. of a strapping fellow or wench (*Grose*). Also, 2. expert with the dukes (boxing).

Two-handed Game. A matter in which the chances of success are equal or nearly so: e.g. I'll dust your jacket for you, Well, that's a two-handed game.

Two-legged Cat (**Fox,** etc.). A thief: usually as a retort to The cat had it,—A two-legged cat then (1551).

Two-legged Tree. The gallows: see Nubbing-cheat.

Two-legged Tympany. A baby; spec. a bastard.

Two-nick. A girl baby: cf. One-nick.

Twopence (or **Tuppence**). See Donkey and Penny.

Twopenny. 1. Beer; sold at 2d. a quart: cf. Fourpenny, etc. (1771). 2. The head: also *tuppenny.* Tuck in your tuppenny, (1) an injunction to make a back at leap-frog; and (2) to desist. 3. (London). An intermediary between pawnbroker and client; a professional pawner: the usual fee being twopence. As adj., mean, of little value: as only costing twopence: also (modern) *twopenny-halfpenny* (1485).

Twopenny damn. 1. A variant of Rap, Straw, Curse, Tinker's curse or damn), and many others. Tradition asserts that Wellington once said he did not care a twopenny damn what became of the ashes of Napoleon Buonaparte. 2. *The Twopenny Damn.* The St. James' Gazette: on account of its strong language concerning Mr. Gladstone and the latter-day radicals.

Twopenny-hop. A cheap dance. (*Hotten*: The price of admission was formerly twopence: the clog hornpipe, the pipe dance, flash jigs, and hornpipes in fetters, *à la* Jack Sheppard, were the favourite movements, all entered into with great spirit] (1851).

Twopenny-rope. A lodging-house: one in which the charge is (or was) twopence: sacking stretched on ropes served as a shakedown. *To have twopenn'orth of rope,* to doss down in such a place: Fr., *coucher à la corde* (1837).

Twopenny-ward. Part of a prison was formerly so called (1605).

Two-pipe Scattergun. A double-barrelled rifle.

Two Sevens (The). The second battalion Duke of Cambridge's Own Middlesex Regiment, late the 77th Foot.

Two-shoes. A little girl: an endearment, usually Little Two-shoes (cf. Goody Two-shoes, a kind of fairy god-mother).

Two-Sixes (The). The second battalion Princess Charlotte of Wales's Royal Berkshire Regiment, late the 66th Foot.

Two Tens (The). The Lancashire Fusiliers, late the 20th Foot.

Two-twos. A moment; the shortest imaginable space of time, in a twinkling. *The Two Twos,* The Cheshire Regiment, late the 22nd Foot.

Twoster. See Twist.

Two-to-one Shop. A pawnbroker's, uncle's (q.v.). [*Grose*: alluding to the three blue balls, the sign of that trade; or perhaps to its being two to one that the goods pledged are never redeemed.]

Two upon ten (or **Two pun' ten**). An expression used by assistants to each other, in shops, when a customer of suspected honesty makes his appearance. The phrase refers to two eyes upon ten fingers, shortened as a money term to two pun' ten. When a supposed thief is present, one shopman asks the other if that two pun' (pound) ten matter was ever settled. The man knows at once what is meant, and keeps a careful watch upon the person being served. If it is not convenient to speak, a piece of paper is handed to the same assistant, bearing the, to him, very significant amount of £2, 10s. Cf. Sharp, John Orderly.

Twug (Harrow). Caught: i.e. the past ppl. of twig (q.v.).

Twyford. *My name is Twyford,* I know nothing of the matter.

Tyburn. The place of execution for Middlesex to 1783: after which the death penalty was enforced at Newgate till the demolition of the prison in 1903. The Tyburn gallows stood in the angle formed by the Edgware Road and Oxford Street. In 1778 this was two miles out of London. Hence *Tyburn-blossom*, a young thief: who in time will ripen into fruit borne by the deadly never-green (*Grose*); *Tyburn-check* (*pickadill*, *tiffany*, or *tippet*), a rope, a halter: *Tyburn-tippet*, rather obsolete in 1822 (*Egan*); *Tyburn-fair* (*jig*, *show*, or *stretch*), a hanging; *Tyburn-face*, a hangdog look; *Tyburn-ticket*, an exemption (under 10 & 11 Will. III., c. 23, § 2) to prosecutors who had secured a capital conviction: it released from all manner of parish and ward offices within the parish wherein such felony was committed: the Act was repealed in 1818: Tyburn-tickets were transferable, and often sold for a high price; *Tyburn-tree*, the gallows; *to preach at Tyburn-cross* (*fetch a Tyburn stretch*, dance a *Tyburn hornpipe on nothing*, *the Paddington-frisk*, etc.), to be hanged; *Tyburn-spectacles*, the cap pulled over the face of a criminal before execution; and so forth. See Ladder and Tree.

Tyburnia. A name given, about the middle of the nineteenth century, to the district lying between Edgware Road and Westbourne and Gloucester Terraces and Craven Hill, and bounded on the south by the Bayswater Road, and subsequently including (*Hotten*) the Portman and Grosvenor Square district: facetiously divided by Londoners into Tyburnia Felix, Tyburnia Deserta, and Tyburnia Snobbica: it soon fell into disuse. [From a brook called *Tyburn* (properly The Eye bourn), which flowed down from Hampstead into the Thames.]

Tye (or Tie). A neckcloth: now recognised, but slang thirty years ago, and as early as 1718.

Tyg. A three-handled tyg, a drinking cup so handled that three different persons, drinking out of it, and each using a separate handle, brought their mouths to different parts of the rim. The name is still applied in Oxford to an ordinary round pot with three handles, much used for cups, etc.

Tyke. See Tike.

Tyler. See Adam Tiler.

Tympany. Conceit, bombast; properly a species of dropsy in which the belly is stretched tight like a drum (1610). *Two-legged tympany*, a baby; spec. a bastard.

Typo. A compositor. Also *type-lifter* (or *slinger*), an expert comp.: sometimes in contempt, a slovenly workman.

Tzing-tzing. Excellent, A1 (obsolete).

Ugly. 1. An ugly person: also in contemptuous address, Hallo, *Ugly!* *Mr. Ugly*, etc. (1797). 2. A bonnet shade: worn by women as an extra protection from the sun: middle 19th century. 3. In pl., delirium tremens, the horrors (q.v.). 4. A beating, a round of abuse (*Halliwell*). As adj., generic for disquiet or unpleasantness: e.g. an *ugly* (threatening) *tone*; an *ugly* (dangerous) *wound*; an *ugly* (unpleasant) *rumour*; an *ugly* (wrong) *turn*; *ugly* (stormy) *weather*; an *ugly* (awkward or malicious) *customer*, *opponent*—a source of danger etc.; an *ugly* (troublesome) *cough*; an *ugly* (ill-natured) *temper*; an *ugly* (quarrelsome) *attitude*. Hence *to come the ugly*, to threaten; *to cut up* (or *look*) *ugly*, to show anger or resentment; *to call by ugly names*, to revile or abuse. Also *ugliness* (American), ill-nature, crossness, perversity (1360). See Plug-ugly.

Uglyman. In garrotting, the actual perpetrator of the outrage: his operations are covered in front by the forestall (q.v.), and in the rear by the backstall (q.v.): also Nasty-man: see Stale.

Uhlan. A tramp.

Ullage. In pl., drainings, dregs of glasses or casks. [Properly the wantage in a cask of liquor.]

Ultramarine. Blue (q.v.).

Ultray. Very: a corruption of ultra.

Umpire. *How's that, umpire?* What do you say to that? How's that for high? What price? [An echo of football and cricket.]

Umble-pie. See Humble-pie.

Un-. See Betty, Dub, Pal, Slour, Thimble, etc. [A negation).

Unbaked. Immature: cf. Hard-baked (1598).

Unbeknown (or **Unbeknownst**). Unknown (1665).

Unbleached American. A negro; snowball (q.v.). [An echo of mock Northern sentiment during the War of the Secession.]

Uncertainty. A girl baby: cf. Certainty, a boy.

Uncle. 1. A pawnbroker (*Grose*): Fr., *tante* (cf. Uncle, a mythical rich relative). 2. A familar address: spec. of an old worthy negro: cf. Aunt. [*Pegge*: the Cornish apply aunt and uncle to all elderly persons (p. 301)]. *Your uncle*, Myself: e.g. Your uncle's the man to do it, i.e. I'll do it for you. Phrase: If my aunt had been a man she'd have been my uncle, in derision of those who make ridiculous surmises: see Man (1670). See Dutch uncle.

Uncle Sam. A humorous personification of the Government or people of the U[nited]S[tates]: cf. John Bull. [Usually supposed to date back to the war of 1812.]

Uncommon. Very, exceedingly: e.g. *uncommon* bitter, *uncommon* cheap, etc.

Unconscionable. Enormous, vast very. [*Johnson*: a low word.]

Uncork. To expose to view, to set forth, to cause to flow out: as when a cork is removed from a bottle: e.g. *uncork* the swag, unlock the bag; *uncork* your clack, speak out!

Uncouth, Unkissed. A proverbial allusion to the custom of saluting friends and acquaintances at meeting, but not unintroduced strangers (1566).

Unction. See Blue-unction.

Uncular. Of or relating to an uncle: cf. Avuncular.

Under. *To go under*, 1. To die: whence the *under-side*, the grave. 2. To become submerged in difficulty or debt, to be ruined, to disappear from society. *Under a cloud*, in difficulties or disgrace (1520). *Under the belt*, in the stomach (1815). See Below. *Under the rose*, secretly, in confidence (1546).

Under-dubber (or **dubsman**). A warder other than a chief in command: see Dubber and Dubsman (1785).

Underfellow. A mean wretch, snide (q.v.): see Sidney, *Arcadia*, ii.

Undergear. Underclothing.

Undergrad. 1. An undergraduate 2. A horse in training for steeple-chasing or hunting.

Underground-railway (American). An organization for assisting fugitive slaves to the free states and Canada. many expedients and devices for the purpose were in vogue during the agitation for the abolition of slavery in the United States (1856).

Undergrounder. A ball bowled without pitch, a daisy-cutter (or trimmer), sneak (q.v.).

Underpinner. In pl., the legs: cf. Pins.

Under-shell. A waistcoat: cf. Upper-shell and Upper-stocks.

Under-spur-leather. An underling, a subservient person (1725).

Under-stair. Subordinate, low, mean: cf. Back-door (1655).

Understanding. (1) In pl., the legs: cf. Under-pinners. Also (2) boots or shoes (1602).

Understumble. To understand also *undercomestumble* (1710).

Undisgruntled. See Disgruntled.

Unfortunate. A prostitute: spec. a homeless street-walker. [Probably, in the first place, the popular usage arose from a misreading of Hood's lines.]

Unguentum-aurum. A bribe, palm-grease (q.v.).

Unhintables. See Unmentionables.

Unicorn. 1. A team of horses: (1) two wheelers abreast with a leader in front (*Grose*); and (2) such a turnout (q.v.), a spike-team (American): cf. Four-in-hand, Manchester, Sudden death, Tandem, etc. (1803). 2. A gold coin, value 23 shillings Scotch: *temp.* James III., IV. and V.: a unicorn figured on the obverse. 3. Two men and a woman (or *vice versa*), working together.

Univ. University College, Oxford.

Universal-staircase. The tread mill, wheel of life (q.v.): also everlasting-staircase (q.v.) (1851).

Unlicked Cub (or **Cub**). A raw, unmannerly youth; an uncultivated boor; also an awkward, sulky girl (*Grose*). As adj., ungainly, rough, rude. [A popular notion was that a bear gave birth to shapeless lumps of flesh which she licked into shape.] Also *Unlicked bear* (1602).

Unload. To sell stocks, shares, goods, etc., that have been held on speculation. Also to empty one's pockets.

Unlock. *Unlock the lands* (Victorian), a political cry calling for the opening up for free-selection of lands held by squatters on lease.

Unmentionable. In pl., trousers, breeches. Variants, mostly introduced by Dickens, are :—Ineffables, Inexpressibles, Indescribables, Inexplicables, Unhintables, Unutterables, Unwhisperables, etc.

Unpalled. A thief whose associates are all apprehended, or taken from him by other means, is said to be unpalled, and he is then obliged to work single-handed.

Unparliamentary. Abusive, obscene, unfit for ordinary conversation.

Unpaved. Rough, inflamed: spec. from excessive drinking.

Unready. To undress: as adj., undressed, naked (1580).

Unregenerate Chicken-lifter. A petty thief: see Thief.

Unrig. (1) To strip: e.g. Unrig the drab; whence *unrigged*, naked. Also (2) to plunder; and (3) of ships that are laid up (*B. E.*).

Unrove. *Unrove his life line*, said of a man who has died (*Clark Russell*).

Unslour. *To unlock*, unfasten, or unbutton: see Slour. [Speaking of a person whose coat is buttoned, so as to obstruct the access to his pockets, the knucks will say to each other, the cove is sloured up, we must unslour him to get at his kickseys (*Grose*).

Unspeakable. A general intensive: extremely bad. Thus an *unspeakable* (outrageous) *fool*; an *unspeakable* (rotten) *play*; the *unspeakable* (cruel) *Turk*. [A Carlyleism.]

Unsweetened. Gin: i.e. unsweetened gin.

Unthimble. To rob, or otherwise deprive a man of his watch. *Unthimbled*, robbed of one's watch.

Unthrift. A prodigal, spendthrift, wastegood (q.v.) (1590).

Untrimmed. See Trim.

Untwisted. Undone, ruined (*B. E.*).

Unwashed (or **Great-unwashed**). The mob, the rabble: orig. the artisan class. [First used by Burke, popularised by Scott.] As adj., vulgar, filthy, *Unwashed bawdry*, rant, errant, fulsome, bawdry (1596).

Up. 1. In various elliptical and colloquial senses. As verb, generic for action: cf. Down. Thus *to up* with one's fist, a stick, etc., to raise the hand, etc., for striking a blow; *to up* with the standard, to bear aloft the flag; *Up* guards and at 'em, Stand and charge the enemy, and so on. Adverbially in many connections: as (1) out of bed; (2) on one's legs (ready to speak); in the saddle; under repair (of streets); advanced in rank, position, value, etc.; in revolt, a commotion, or the like; in progress or taking place (as a hunt); adjourned, at an end (as a sitting of the House), etc. Also a scoring-limit at billiards (500 or 1000 up); recorded on the telegraph at cricket (Grace 100 up, a century of runs made). Also in numerous phrases and combinations: *What's up?* What's the matter, or What's going on; *up to* (or *in*), well-equipped, equal to, conversant with (the law, mathematics, tricks of trade, etc.); *all's up* (or *up with*), everything is lost, ruin stares one in the face: frequently *up* is spelt as, it's all *U-P*; *to go up*, (1) to travel to London, Paris, etc. (as the centre and focus of national life): specifically (University) to return to Oxford or Cambridge, the antithesis in this case being going down to London, home, etc.; (2) to offer oneself for examination; *to have* (or *pull*) *up*, (1) to summons, arrest, or bring before a magistrate; and (2) to check a downward course (as of drink, dissipation, or the like); *up and down* (see Up-and-down); *to come up with*, to overtake, catch up; *to look up*, to improve in health, credit, value; *up to*, about to do, occur, or in preparation; *up a tree* (or *treed*), (1) done for, ruined, (2) in a difficulty, cornered (q.v.), and (3) drunk; also *up in one's hat*: see Screwed; *to up jib* (*the sticks*, or *the stakes*), to pack up and go, to be off; *to up and dust*, to hurry up, move fast; *up to snuff* (*scent*, or *the ropes*), knowing (q.v.), wide-awake (q.v.), cunning, sharp (*Grose*); *up to the knocker* (*door, nines, a thing or two*, etc.), good, capital, excellent; *up the* *spout,* (1) in pawn, (2) imprisoned (*Grose*); *up to one's ears* (*elbows, the hilt,* etc.), overwhelmed; *up to the hub,* to the extreme point; *to live up to blue china,* to spend up to, or more than, one's income; *up to sample,* of good quality, O.K. (q.v.); *up to Dick,* rich, generous, wise, quick, in good health, jolly, well-dressed: generic for the best; *up to dictionary,* learned; *up to the gossip* (*cackle, try-on,* etc.), prepared for any attempt at imposition, roguery, or trickery (*Grose*); *up to slum* (*Grose*), proficient in roguery, good as a tradesman (q.v.); *that's up against you,* What do you say to that? That will knock the stuffing out of you; *up in the stirrups,* with plenty of money (*Grose*) (1340). 2. (Harrow). In school; *To be up at second school,* to go to any one for work at 10 or 11 o'clock.

Up-a-daisa (or **Ups-a-daisy**). Used in baby-jumping.

Up-and-down. Usually in pl., the events of life, vicissitudes of fortune, alternate good and bad luck; as adj., plain, downright, positive; as adv., (1) thorough, completely, in every respect, *down to the ground* (q.v.); (2) bluntly, brutally (q.v.); and (3) without favour, justly (1542). *Up and down place,* a shop where a cutter-out is expected to fill up his time sewing. See *Ups and Downs.*

Uphill. In pl., dice loaded to cast high numbers: cf. Lowmen (*B. E.*). As adj., difficult, severe, against collar (q.v.) (*Grose*); hence hampered (1748).

Upon. See Cross, Say-so, Sivvy, Square, Snib.

Upper. *Down on one's uppers,* poor, hard-up (q.v.), broke (q.v.).

Upper-ben (or **Upper-benjamin**). A great coat (*Grose*); also *Benjy*: orig. *Joseph,* but (*Hotten*) because of the preponderance of tailors named *Benjamin,* altered in deference to them.

Upper-crust. 1. The skin. 2. See Upper-ten. 3. A hat: see Golgotha.

Upper-hand. *To have* (*hold,* or *get*) *the upper hand* (*fortune,* or *whip-hand*), to have (hold or get) at one's command, in one's power, lead, or under control; to have the day as one's own; to have full play or advantage (1525).

Upper-lip. *To keep a stiff upper-lip,* to be courageous, self-reliant under difficulties, unflinching in quest (1833).

Upper-shell. A coat: whence *under-shell,* a waistcoat: cf. Upperstocks.

Upper-sixpenny (Eton). A playing field: see Sixpenny.

Upper-stock. In pl., trunk hose, breeches: see Kicks (1546).

Upper-storey (**loft, works,** etc.). The head, brain (*Grose*). Hence *unfurnished* (*something wrong,* or *rats*) *in the upper storey,* crazy, demented, ignorant, off one's chump, (q.v.), drunk (1751).

Upper-ten. The aristocracy, landed gentry, world of fashion: also *upper ten thousand, upper-tendom,* and *upper-crust.* [Usually referred to N. P. Willis, and originally applied to the wealthy classes of New York as approximating that number.] (1835).

Uppish. 1. Proud, arrogant, stuck-up (q.v.); rampant, crowing, full of money (*B. E.*); also (*B. E.*), brisk; whence *uppishly* and *uppishness.* [*Johnson*: a low word.] 2. Tipsy: see Screwed (1726).

Upright. A leg. *Go upright,* 'Said by Taylers and Shoemakers, to their Servants, when any Money is given to make them Drink, and signifies, bring it all out in Drink, tho' the Donor intended less, and expects Change, or some return of Money' (*B. E.*, 1696).

Upright-man. The leader of a gang of mendicants or thieves (1561); the second rank of the canting tribes (*B. E.*); a thorough-paced and determined thief (*Grose*): see Curtail (1561).

Uproar. An opera: cf. Roaratorio, oratorio (1762).

Ups and Downs (The). The second battalion of the Welsh Regiment, formerly the 69th Foot, the number being read in position or upside-down.

Upsee-Dutch (**Upsee-English, Upsee-Freese**). Conjecturally a kind of heady beer qualified by the name of the brew. Hence *upsee-freesy,* etc., drunk: see Screwed; *to drink upsee-Dutch* (*English,* etc.), to drink deeply, or in true toper fashion according to the custom of the country named. Also *Upsees* (1600).

Upset. See Apple-cart.

Upsides. *To be upsides with,* to be even with, quits with, a match for (1816).

Upsitting. The sitting up of a woman to see her friends after her confinement: the feast held on such an occasion (1607).

Upskip. An upstart (q.v.) (1549).

Upsodown. Topsy-turvy (q.v.), upside-down: also *upset-down*. Cf. Backsevore (1340).

Upstairs (London). A special brand of spirits: a bottle usually kept on a shelf: e.g. a drop of upstairs: the particular brand varies with the house. *To go upstairs out of the world*, to be hanged: see Ladder (1695).

Upstart. A person suddenly raised from poverty to wealth, from a humble position to consequence, or from servitude to power: now recognised (1592).

Upsyturvy. Topsy-turvy (q.v.) (1594).

Uptails-all. (1) Confusion, riot, high jinks; (2) revellers, good fellows, boon companions. Hence (3) wantonness (1602).

Up-to-date. Of the latest (in fashion, fact, or philosophy), abreast of the times.

Upways. Upward.

Urchin. 1. A mischievous child, a half-chiding endearment, a little sorry fellow (*B. E.*): also 2. an elf, fairy, or sprite: popularly supposed to take the form of a hedgehog, the original meaning. Hence as adj., (1) roguish, mischievous; and (2) trifling, foolish, trumpery (1528).

Urinal. 1. A chamber-pot or glass (*B. E.*). *Urinal of the planets*, Ireland: because of its frequent and great rains, as Heidelberg and Cologne, in Germany, have the same name upon the same account (*B. E.*).

U. S.-cove. A soldier. *U.S.-plate*, handcuffs: cf. Government securities.

Use. Liking. *To use at* (or *round*) *a place*, to haunt, frequent. *To use up*, to exhaust, wear out, do for (q.v.): whence *used up*, broken-hearted, bankrupt, fatigued, vanquished, killed, etc. (*Grose*).

Usher. Yes: cf. Yiddish *user*, it is so.

Usual. The custom. *As per usual*, as usual: pleonastic (1589).

Utter. The extreme, the utmost: also (modern) *quite too utterly utter*, very; *the blooming utter*, the utmost. As adj., excellent, A1: a supreme intensive (1697).

Uzzard. The letter Z.

V. 1. A symbol of cuckoldry, the letter being occasionally printed in that connection; hence *to make v*, to make horns (q.v.): the first and second fingers are derisively forked out (1611). 2. A five-dollar note: v is marked prominently to indicate its value.

Vac. Vacation.

Vag. A vagabond. Whence *Vag-act*, the Vagabond Act.

Vagaries. (*B. E.*) Wild rambles, extravagant frolics (1696); to gad, to range; see Vagrant. Hence *vagarian*, a crank (q.v.); *vagarious* (or *vagarist*), whimsical, capricious, irregular (1611).

Vagrant. A wandering rogue, a strolling vagabond (*B. E.*): also *Vagant*, [sometimes *vagarant*, apparently simulating *vagary*.] Whence *vagrancy* (or *vagancy*), wandering, strolling; also adj., roving, erratic, vagabond (1380).

Vain. *To take one's name in vain*, to name: a common dovetail on hearing one's name mentioned; e.g. Who's taking my name in vain?

Valley. See Cascade.

Valley-tan. A special manufacture of whisky sold in Utah.

Vamose (Vamos, or Vampoose). To go, decamp, clear out (q.v.): also (Western) *to vamose the ranch*. [Spanish.] (1840).

Vamp. 1. A robbery. Hence *in for a vamp*, quodded (q.v.) for prigging (q.v.); *vamper* (q.v.), a thief. 2. In pl., refooted stockings (*B. E.*): see Vamper. As verb, (1) to improvise a musical accompaniment: the key and time being known, a passable accompaniment is playable at sight by a system which, in America, is taught in eight lessons for $10; also as subs., and *vamper* (1851). 2. To pawn, spout (q.v.) (*B. E.*).

Vamper. 1. A swindling horse-dealer; a faker (q.v.) of unsound horses: also see Vamp. 2. In pl., stockings (*B. E.*).

Vampire (Punch and Judy). 1. The ghost: see Swatchel. 2. A blackmailer: Fr., *chanteur.*

Vampo. The clown: see Swatchel.

Vandemonianism. Rowdyism: i.e. pertaining to Van Diemen's Land, the old name of Tasmania when a convict settlement, with a glance at demon: also Vandemonian (1852).

Van John. A corruption of *Vingt-et-un.*

Vanner. A van horse: cf. Busser, Cabber, Wheeler, etc.

Vantage. Good paying work, fat (q.v.): a spec. colloquial usage of a recognised word.

Vantage-loaf. The thirteenth loaf in a baker's-dozen (q.v.).

Vapour. (1) In pl., bluster, ostentatious or windy talk, swagger (q.v.). [The Roaring Boys (q.v.) of Elizabethan times, to provoke a quarrel, were wont flatly and swaggeringly to contradict everything said, even that to which a bully had previously assented; hence as verb, to boast, swagger, bully. Also (2) in the eighteenth century, a fashionable term for airs (q.v.), side (q.v.): spec. an exaggerated affectation of nerves or blues (q.v.): also (3) whims, fancies, maggots (q.v.), and as verb, to fuss, fidget, make to do (q.v.) (1552).

Vardo. A waggon. *Vardo-gill,* a waggoner (*Grose*). As verb, to look, see, observe: e.g. *vardo the carsy,* look at the house.

Vardy. An opinion: e.g. That's my *vardy* on the matter, That's what I think. [A corruption of *verdict.*]

Varlet. A generic reproach: a rogue, scoundrel, low fellow. Whence *varletry,* the mob, rabble, crowd (*B. E.*). [Properly, a page, groom, or serving-man.] (1549).

Varmint. 1. Anything troublesome or mischievous: also a half-jocular endearment to a child: e.g. You young varmint [that is, *vermin*] (1826). 2. A fox. As adj., spruce, natty, good-all-round (1823).

Varmint-man. A hack or ghost (q.v.): one who, like Jemmy Gordon, wrote themes for idle undergrads: see Varmint.

Varnisher. One who utters base money, a snide-pitcher (q.v.).

Varsal. Universal: frequently as an intensive (1710).

Varsity. University; and spec. University College, Oxford: the reduction is also affected by American students (1864).

Varsity-tit. A student of Durham University: in contempt.

Varying (Winchester). A vulgus (q.v.) when done up to books (q.v.).

Vaseline (Royal Military Academy). Butter, cart-grease (q.v.).

Vaughan (The). The Harrow School Library: named after Dr. Vaughan.

Veal. A calf: cf. Mutton, Beef: in English these terms are now restricted to the dead carcase and not applied to the living animal, as in French and other languages (1612). Phrases: *Veal* will be cheap, calves fall (a jeer at those with spindly legs); In a shoulder of *veal* there are twenty and two good bits (*Ray*: a piece of country wit—there are twenty [others say forty] bits in a shoulder of veal, and but two good ones).

Vealy. Immature, calfish, green (q.v.).

Veck. An old woman (1360).

Vegetable-breakfast. A hanging, execution: i.e. an artichoke (hearty choke) and caper sauce: see Ladder.

Vein-openers. The first battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment, late the 29th Foot.

Velvet. The tongue (*B. E.*): especially the tongue of a magsman (*Hotten*). *To stand on velvet,* to arrange one's bets so that loss is impossible. *To play on velvet,* to gamble with winnings.

Velvet-cap. A physician: a velvet-cap formed a distinctive part of a doctor's garb (1606).

Velveteen. In pl., a gamekeeper.

Velvet-jacket. A steward in a nobleman's family, a man in the King's service, the mayor of a city (1600).

Velvet-pee. A velvet pea-jacket (1607).

Ventilator. A play, player, or management that empties a house.

Venture. As in the proverbial saying, I'll *venture* it as Johnson did his wife, and she did well (*Ray*).

Venturer. A harlot.

Verb- (or Gerund-) grinder.

A schoolmaster or tutor: spec. a pedantic pedagogue (1785). Also *gerund-grinding*, the study of grammar (1759).

Verdant. Simple, inexperienced, easily taken in (q.v.), green (q.v.). Whence *verdancy*, rawness, inexperience (1853).

Verge. A gold watch.

Verites (Charterhouse). A boarding-house. [A corruption of Oliverites, after Dr. Oliver Walford, 1838-55.]

Vert. A per-*vert* or con-*vert*: spec. one leaving the Church of England for the Roman Communion, or *vice-versâ*. Also as verb (1864).

Vertical-caregrinder. The tread-mill, horizontal-staircase (q.v.), wheel of life (q.v.).

Vessel (Winchester College). The half-quarter of a sheet of foolscap. [*Voc. East Anglia*: vessel was used for theme-papers formerly at Bury School.] *The weaker vessel*, a woman: see 1 Peter iii. 7 (1600).

Vest. *Pull down your vest*, a street catch-phrase of no special meaning. *To lose one's vest*, to get angry, lose one's temper: cf. Keep your hair on!

Vesta. In pl., Railway Investment Company Deferred Stock.

Vet. 1. A veterinary surgeon. 2. A veteran (q.v.).

Veteran. A soldier listing for a second term of service: also *vet.* Whence *veteran* (or *veteranize*), to re-enlist.

Vex (Christ's Hospital). So much the worse for: e.g. Vex for you: cf. Chaff.

Vic (Felsted School). 1. A warning of a master's approach; Cave! hence *to keep vic*, to be on the look-out. 2. The Victoria Theatre.

Victual. *In one's victuals*, in favour, petted, cosseted: spec. of a mother and child.

Victualler. A pander: the legitimate trade of a tavern-keeper was frequently but a cloak for intrigue and bawdry; hence many equivocal allusions. Also *victualling house*, a house of accommodation (1598).

Victualling-department (or office). The stomach, the bread-basket (q.v.), the dumpling-depot (q.v.): Fr., *panier au pain*; Ital., *fagiana* (bean-box).

Viewpoint. A point of view.

Viewy. 1. Visionary, kinky (q.v.), funny (q.v.) (1848). 2. Showy, calculated to catch the eye (1851).

Vigilance-committee. Orig. Californian: a self-constituted body of men ostensibly for the purpose of administering justice or protecting the public interests in places where the regular authorities were either unable or unwilling to execute the laws: cf. Lynch law. Hence *vigilant*, a member of such a committee (1858).

Vile. A town: cf. Fr., *ville*. Hence *Romevile*, London (see Rum): *deuce-a-vile*, the country: also *deauseaville* and *daisyville* (1567).

Vill (Felsted School). Felsted village.

Villadom. The world of suburban residents; spec. the middle classes.

Village (The). London: also *the hardware village*, Birmingham.

Village-bustler. An active petty thief: a picker up of trifles, unconsidered or the reverse.

Villain. A jocular self-reproach: e.g. I'm a bit of a *villain* myself, but ——; or I'm as mild a *villain* as ever scuttled a ship. Also as an endearment (1604).

Vim. Spirit, activity, energy: orig. University slang [Latin]. (1869).

Vincent's-law. Cheating at cards.

Vinegar. A cloak (*B. E.*). Also see Pepper.

Violet (or **Garden-violet**). 1. An onion: spec. in pl., spring onions used as a salad. Also, 2., in pl., sage-and-onion stuffing.

Violento. A violent man: cf. Furioso, Glorioso, etc. (1662).

Virago. A masculine woman, or a great two-handed female (*B. E.*).

Virgin (Stock Exchange). In pl., Virginia New Funded Stock.

Virginhead. Virginity (1605).

Virginia-fence. A zig-zag rail fence a worm-fence (q.v.). *To walk a Virginia fence*, to reel: of drunken men.

Virgin-knot. The virginity, chastity. [In allusion to the girdle worn by Greek and Roman maidens when of marriageable age.] (1609).

Virgin Mary's Body-guard. The 7th Dragoon Guards. [They served under Maria Theresa of Austria, *temp.* George II.]

Virtue. Smoking, drinking, dissipation in general. When a man confesses to abstention from tobacco and intoxicating liquors he is perversely said to have no virtues.

Vish (Christ's Hospital). Cross, vicious: formerly passy (q.v.).

Visor-mask. A harlot (1682).

Vixen (or **Fixen**). An ill-natured, snarling man or woman, a termagant, a scold. Also *vixenish* (or *vixenly*) ill-tempered, snappish, snarling, turbulent (1563).

Vocab (Charterhouse). A dictionary, *vocab*ulary.

Vocalier. A singer (1876).

Vol (Harrow School). Voluntary: e.g. *Vol-gym.*

Volant. A Jack-of-both-sides, a trimmer. As adj., giddy, flighty (1740).

Voluntary (Winchester). A copy of verses written occasionally by some in Sixth Book and Senior Part *ex proprio motu* (*Mansfield*, c. 1840).

Voucher. A man or woman that passes off false money for sham coiners (*B. E.*), a snide-pitcher (q.v.) (1680).

Vowel. To give an I.O.U.: e.g. *to vowel a debt.*

Vowel-mauler. An indistinct speaker.

Vulgus (Winchester: obsolete). A Latin epigram: four or six lines long. Hence *vulgus-book*, a crib (q.v.). [See Farmer, *Public School Word-book.*] (1856).

Vum. *I vum*, a mild expletive or oath, I vow: cf. Swan (1856).

Wabash. To cheat, swindle, victimise.

Wabble (or **Wobble**). (1) To rock from side to side, move unsteadily, sway unevenly. Hence (2) to vacillate, play fast and loose, blow hot and cold. Whence as subs., unsteady movement, fickleness, vacillation; *wabbly*, unsteady, shaky, rocky (q.v.)] *wabbler*, a waverer, shuffler, trimmer; also *wibble-wabble* (a reduplication). [*Johnson*: a low barbarous word. (3) To make free use of one's tongue, to be ready of lip (q.v.). Hence *wabbler*, a fluent speaker, a chattering fool.

Wabbler. 1. A boiled leg of mutton. 2. See Wabble.

Wack. See Whack.

Wad. A roll of bank-notes; hence generic for money: see Rhino.

Waddle. To go like a duck (*B. E.*), to toddle, shamble, slouch. Hence, as subs. (or *waddling*), an ungainly walk, a wabbling (q.v.) gait. Also derivatives: *waddler*, *waddly*, *waddlingly*, etc. (1595). *To waddle out of the Alley*, to make default on the Stock Exchange: cf. Lame Duck (1771).

Waddler. A duck.

Waddy. A walking-stick: properly a war-club (1874).

Wade. (1) A ford: and (2) the act of wading. Also *waders*, long waterproof boots: used by sportsmen for wading through water.

Wafer-woman. A bawd, procuress, go-between. Also *waferer*, a pander (1607).

Waffle. To talk incessantly, clack (q.v.), jaw (q.v.): at Durham School, to talk nonsense. [Cf. prov. Eng., *waffle*, to bark, to yelp.]

Waffles. A loafer, an idle sauntering person.

Wafrican. In pl., generic for West African stocks and shares: cf. Westralian.

Wag. 1. A buffoon, droll, practical joker. [Probably wag-halter (q.v.). a rogue (q.v.): cf. mad wag, mad wag-halter, etc.] Also 2. as a half-jocular, half-affectionate slur. As adj., Arch, Gamesome, Pleasant (*B. E.*). As verb (or *waggle*), generic for (1) playful or sportive; (2) mocking, scornful, or derisive motion; hence *waggery*, *waggishness*, *waggish*, etc. (1550); (3) to stir, move, make way, progress (1546); (4) to go, be off, depart, begone (1589). *The wag*, truancy: as verb (or *to play*, or *hop*, *the wag*), to be truant: also *charley-wag* (q.v.). See Afraid.

Wag-feather. A silly swaggerer.

Wagged-out. Tired, worn out.

Waggoner. A book of sea-charts: cf. Liddel and Scott, a dictionary; Cruden, a concordance. [From Baron von Waegenaar's *Speculum Nauticum*, etc.] (1580).

Wag-halter. A rogue, gallows-bird.: i.e. one likely or deserving to wag in a halter; cf. Crack-rope, Halter-sack, etc. (1594).

Wagon. A bicycle.

Wag-pastie. A rogue, urchin, rascal (all of which see); an endearment (1534).

Wagtail. A term of familiarity or contempt: spec. a harlot (*B. E.*). Hence, *to wag the tail* (of women), to wanton (1605).

Wag-wit. A wag: in contempt (1712).

Waistcoat. *Fœtid waistcoat*, a waistcoat of a flaunting and vulgar pattern.

Waistcoateer. A harlot. [The waistcoat was formerly in use by both sexes: when worn by women without a gown or upper-dress it was considered the mark of a mad, low, or profligate woman.] (1602).

Waister. A seaman or boy of little use, a green (q.v.) hand: if inexperienced or broken down, such as these were placed in the waist of a man-of-war for duties not requiring much exertion or seamanship. Also (modern), a new whaling hand.

Wait. *To wait for dead men's shoes*, to look forward to an inheritance (1660). *To wait on one*, to seek a chance of retaliation, revenge, or spite; to try and get one's own back.

Waiter. *Minority-waiter*, a waiter out of employment: i.e. as one out of (political) office (1778).

Wake. *To wake snakes*, (1) to rouse oneself, to be up and doing; and (2) to get into trouble (1848). *To wake up the wrong passenger*, to make a mistake, get the wrong sow by the ear: see Wrong passenger.

Waler. Orig. a cavalry horse imported into India from New South Wales; now applied to all cattle brought from Australia (1863).

Walk. A special haunt, place of resort, or round (q.v.): an extension of the ordinary usage. Thus a *milkman's* (*cat's-meat-man's*, *postman's*, etc.) *walk*, the district habitually served by a salesman (postman, etc.); a *bank-walk*, the round of a banker's collecting clerk; *The Walk* (Royal Exchange), that portion of the promenade frequented by some particular clique or set of merchants (1851). *Cock* (or *Hen*) *of the walk*, a man (or woman) of parts, a worthy, a leader (1711). *Ladies'* (or *Gentlemen's*) *walk*, a W.C.: a euphemism (hotel-proprietors'). *To walk the streets*, to frequent the streets for the purpose of prostitution; to make public quest for men. *To walk into*, (1) to attack, assault, drub: also *to walk into the affections*; (2), to scold, rag (q.v.), slang (q.v.); (3) to demolish, overcome, get the best of; and (4) to eat heartily, to wolf (q.v.) (1840). *To walk the chalk*, (1) to walk along a chalk line as a test of sobriety; hence (2) to go straight in conduct, manners, or morals, to keep up to the mark (1840). *To walk one's chalks* (or *to walk*), to decamp, move on, go about one's business: see Chalk for suggested origin. *The ghost walks* (or *doesn't walk*), there is (or is not) money in the treasury (1853). *To walk the plank*, to walk overboard, to die: formerly an old method of execution or vengeance, the victim being forced to walk blindfolded along a plank over the ship's side. *To walk into one's affections*, (1) to walk into (q.v. *supra*), and (2) to get into debt. *To walk over*, to win a race without opposition; hence to win easily: *walk-over*, an unopposed success, complete triumph (spec. of a horse, coming alone, of all the entries, to the scratch; it has consequently but to walk over the course at leisure to be entitled to the stake) (1859). *Walk, knave, walk*, a rude phrase which parrots were taught to use (*Fairholt*) (1592). Also in various phrases: Thus *to walk alone*, to be an outcast, forsaken, shunned; *to walk the hospitals*, to attend the medical and surgical practice of hospitals as a student under one of the qualified staff; *to walk Spanish*, to be seized by the scruff and the seat and thus forced along, to act under compulsion; *to walk about* (military), an occasional instruction from officers to sentinels for the purpose of waiving the ceremony of the salute; *to walk the pegs* (gaming), to sharp one's pegs forward or those of one's antagonist backward (cribbage); *to walk* (or *jump*) *down one's throat*, to rate, scold, abuse; *to walk up Ladder-lane and down Hemp-street*, to be hanged at the yardarm: see Ladder; to walk *round one*, to get an advantage, or the bulge over.

Walker. 1. A prowler, moucher

(q.v.): spec. one questing for opportunities of theft or harlotry: also (later) *night-walker* and *street-walker* (1380). 2. In pl., the feet (1603). 3. A postman [*Hotten*: from an old song called Walker, the twopenny postman.] *Hookey Walker* (or *Walker*), (1) an ironical expression of incredulity, bender (q.v.), gammon (q.v.), also (2) Be off! Clear out!

Walking-mort. A tramp or gipsy's woman: see Mort.

Walking-papers (or ticket). Dismissal. Thus, *to get one's walking-papers*, to get the sack (q.v.), to be sent about one's business, with (spec.) a flea in one's ear (1840).

Wall (Eton). Two football games are played at Eton—one at the wall, the other in the field. The first is only played by a very limited number of boys, for there is but one wall; the game is of an intricate nature, and the uninitiated spectator cannot, as a rule, even see how a point, called a Shy, is obtained. Indeed, were it not for the time-honoured match between Collegers and Oppidans on St. Andrew's Day the game would probably become obsolete. The Eton field game has many merits as a game for boys superior to those of any other kind of football. In it speed, and skilful dribbling, and accurate kicking have their due success, but strength and dogged perseverance are not left out in the cold (*Great Public Schools*). As verb, to confine to College bounds: cf. Gate. *Go-by-the-wall*, strong ale. Phrases: *At* (or *to*) *the wall*, in difficulties: *to go to the wall*, to be slighted, ousted, put on one side, to succumb to force of circumstances, to go under (q.v.); *laid by the wall*, dead, but unburied; *to drive to the wall*, to force to give way, to crush; *to take the wall*, to walk nearest the wall in passing; hence to get the better of (or the advantage): cf. to get to windward (q.v.): *the wall* (the right of choice of way), was in olden times the safest and cleanest; *to hang by the wall*, to be neglected, remain disused; *to see as far into a brick wall* (*millstone* or *milestone*) as . . . to be as able (or as cute) as . . .; Look on the *wall*, and it will not bite you (a jeer to one whose tongue has been bitten by mustard); *Walls* have ears, Be careful, some one may be listening (1530).

Wallaby. *On the wallaby* (or *wallaby-track*), tramping the country on foot looking for work. [*Morris*: *Wallaby*, a small kangaroo; often in the bush the only perceptible tracks, and sometimes the only tracks by which the scrub can be penetrated, are the tracks worn down by the wallaby, as a hare tramples its form. These tracks may lead to water or they may be aimless and rambling. Thus the man *on the wallaby*, may be looking for food or for work, or aimlessly wandering by day and getting food and shelter as a sundowner (q.v.) at night.]

Wallah. See Competition wallah.

Wall-eyed. 1. Having eyes with an undue proportion of white; all white like a plastered wall (*Grose*), hence, 2. glaring, fierce, threatening. Any work irregularly or ill done is called a *wall-eyed* job. It is applied also to any very irregular action (1580).

Wallflower. 1. Orig. a lady unable to obtain a partner in a dance; now applied to any one of either sex who goes to a ball but does not dance, whether from inability, choice, or neglect; as adj., neglected, *passé* (1830). 2. In pl., second-hand garments exposed for sale: cf. Hand-me-downs, Reach-me-downs, etc.

Wallop. 1. To beat, flog, thrash; also as subs., a severe blow; *walloping*, a good trouncing; also *walloper* (1838). 2. Generic for great effort or agitation: e.g. (*a*) to boil and bubble: see Pot-walloper; (*b*) move or gallop quickly; (*c*) to tumble about; also as subs., with the usual derivatives (1360).

Walloping. Great, bouncing. Also *walloper*, anything superlative: see Whopper.

Wallyford. The usual run on a wet whole schoolday: about 3½ miles.

Waltham's-calf. *As wise as Waltham's calf*, very foolish (1529).

Waltz. *To waltz about* (or *round*), to move in a sprightly fashion, to buzz round; also to fuss about, make oneself a nuisance.

Wamble-cropped. Wretched-humiliated: also *womble-cropped*.

Wanger. See Whanger.

Wanion. Misfortune, calamity, mischief, a curse. Thus *with* (or *in*) *a wanion*, (1) Mischief take you, Blast you; with a vengeance; and hence (2) summarily, emphatically: also *Wanions on you!*

Wanker (Felsted School). A bloater. [A master supplies: From stinker—stwanker—wanker.]

Wanky. Spurious, bad, wrong: e.g. a *wanky* tanner, a snide (q.v.) sixpence.

Want. See Know.

Wa'n't. Was not: also *warnt* (1699).

Wantage. A deficiency, a shortage.

Wanted. Wanted by the police (*Grose*).

Wanter. 1. A person in need of anything: cf. Haves and Have-nots. Also 2. spec., an unmarried person one in want of a mate (1611).

Want-grace. 1. A reprobate (1603). 2. See Whop.

Wapper. See Whopper.

Wapper-eyed. That has sore or running eyes (*B. E.*).

Waps. A wasp.

War. *Tug of war*, a severe and laborious contest (1671). See Before the war.

Wardrobe. A privy (1383).

Warehouse. To pawn. Hence as subs., a fashionable uncle (q.v.).

War-hat. See War-pot.

War-horse. A veteran: soldier or politician.

Warling. Apparently slave, drudge: only occurring in proverbial saying, It is better to be an old man's derling, than an old man's werling (*Heywood*, 1542).

Warm. Generic for *extra*-ordinary: e.g. a *warm* (intimate) *friend*; *warm* (sincere) *thanks*; *a warm* (hearty) *welcome*; a *warm* (fresh) *trail*: cf. hot, warm, and cold in children's play of guessing or hide-and-seek; *warm* (easy) *circumstances*: whence *to cut up warm*, to leave a good estate, to die rich; a *warm* (rich) *man*: well-lined or flush in the pocket (*B. E.*); *warm* (in one's position, duty, etc.), at home, conversant with, well adapted to: hence *to keep a place*, etc., *warm*, to occupy it; a *warm* (unpleasant) *position*: e.g. He's in a *warm* corner; a *warm* (zealous) *opinion*; a *warm* (brisk) *engagement*; a *warm* (enthusiastic) *partisan*; *warm* (quick) *work*; a *warm* (hasty) *temper*: espec. when contradicted; *warm* (wanton) *desire*; a *warm* (lecherous) *member* (or *warm-'un*): a harlot or whoremonger: cf. Hot-'un, Scorcher (q.v.); also (2) *warm-member*, an energetic, pushful, self-advertising person; *warm* (strong) *language*; a *warm* (hostile) *reception*; hence the place gets too *warm* (unpleasant) because of unpopularity or antagonism to authority, and so forth (1377). Phrases: *To warm a house*, to celebrate incoming by a feast: hence house-warming; *to warm to* (a thing, one's work, etc.), to become enthusiastic, to do vigorously; *warm with*, warm with sugar: cf. Cold without; Out of God's blessing into the *warm sun*, from better to worse. Also see Warming (1581).

Warming. A beating, flogging, thrashing. Hence *to warm* (or *warm one's jacket*, q.v.), (1) to beat, drub, tan (q.v.); and (2) to rate, abuse roundly, call over the coals. *To warm the wax of one's ears*, to box the ears.

Warming-pan. 1. A substitute; a *locum tenens*; a person occupying another's office, situation, or post during absence or while qualifying for it; also W. P.: spec. a clergyman holding a living under a bond of resignation; also as adj., e.g. a warming-pan rector: see Warm. 2. A large, old-fashioned gold watch: cf. Frying-pan (q.v.) or Turnip (q.v.), a large silver watch (*B. E.*). 3. A female bedfellow; also *Scotch warming-pan*, a chambermaid (1672).

Warm-sided. Said of a fort or ship mounting heavy batteries.

War-paint. Official costume, evening-dress, or (theatrical) make-up (q.v.).

Warpath. *On the warpath*, in hostile mood or attitude, making fur and feathers fly, angry.

War-pot (or **War-hat**). A spiked helmet.

Warren. He that is security for goods taken up on credit by extravagant young gentlemen (*B. E.*).

Warwickshire Lads (The). The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, late the 6th Foot.

Wash. 1. A fictitious bargain or sale: a broker gets instructions from one client to buy, and from another to sell, a particular stock; instead of making separate transactions of the two commissions to the best advantage of each principal, he merely transfers from one to the other, putting the difference in his own pocket: the practice is against the rules; hence washed, as applied to stock sold or bought in this way; also a bogus deal made for the sake of a fictitious quotation: one broker arranges with another to buy a certain stock when he offers it for sale, the effect, when not detected, being to keep it quoted, and, if the plotters buy and sell the stock to a high figure, to afford a basis for *bona fide* sales. 2. Paint for faces (*B. E.*). 3. Very weak lap (q.v.) spec. (Durham School), school tea or coffee: see Rock. As verb, (1) to bear investigation, stand testing, prove genuine, reliable, or trustworthy, as good fabrics and fast dyes stand the operation of washing (1857). (2) To signify doubt of an assertion, or disapproval of conduct by language or action more forcible than pleasant: e.g. printers bang and knock on the cases; tailors indulge in strong language, etc. See Jerry and Whack! *To wash one's head*, to insult, to put indignity on one; hence *washing-blow*, a box on the ears, a blow on the head; and *to give one's head for washing*, to submit to overbearing insult. *To wash* (or *sluice*) *the ivories*, to drink: Fr., *se rincer la dent*; also *to wash one's neck* (1823). *To wash one's sheep with scalding water*, to do the absurd: a simile of folly (*Ray*); also *to wash the crow* (*the Ethiopian*, a *blackamore*, etc.), *white*.

Washical. What-d'-ye-call-it (q.v.) (1551).

Washing. *To give one's head for a washing*: see Wash.

Washman. A beggar faked out with sores; 'a washman is called a Palliard (q.v.), but not of the right making. He vseth to lye in the hye way with lame or sore legs or armes to beg. These men ye right Palliards wil often times spoile, but they dare not complayn. They be bitten with spickworts, and sometimes with rats bane' (*Awdeley*, 'Frat. Vacabondes,' 1561).

Wash-pot. A hat, a Moab (q.v.): see Golgotha.

Wasp. *As quiet as a wasp in one's nose*, very much alive.

Waspish. Peevish (*B. E.*).

Waste-butt. An eating-house, grubbing-ken (q.v.), mungarly-casa (q.v.).

Waster. 1. A prodigal, a spendthrift; also *wastrel*, *waste-good*, *waste-thrift*. 2. A generic form of contempt, a ne'er-do-well, bad-egg (q.v.), rotter (q.v.), a useless, clumsy, or ill-made person (*Hotten*); *wastrel* (q.v.), a neglected child, street-arab (1383). 3. A lawless thieving vagabond (1342). 4. An imperfection in the wick of a candle, causing it to gutter or waste: also thief (q.v.). 5. A cudgel: spec. a wooden sword used for practice (1593). 6. A damaged manufactured article: also *Wastrel* (1863). 7. See Waister.

Waste-time. Idle, useless, or trivial employment: a play on pastime (1662).

Wat. 1. A hare: cf. Philip, sparrow; Tom, cat; Ned, donkey; etc. (1470). 2. A fellow, a wily cautious man (*Halliwell*) (1400).

Watch. 1. Self: the ancient equivalent of nibs (q.v.). Thus *his watch*, the person referred to; *my watch*, myself; *your watch*, yourself; *our watch*, ourselves, us, etc. (1530). 2. (Westminster). A junior who has to remain in College during play-hours to answer inquiries, receive messages, and so forth, performing, in fact, the duties of a servant. *To watch out* (Winchester, cricket), to field. *Paddy's watch*: see Paddy-whack.

Watch-and-seals. A sheep's head and pluck.

Watch-birth. A midwife (1605).

Watchmaker. A thief whose speciality is stealing watches: also *watchmaker in a crowd* (*Hotten*).

Water (Westminter School). Boating, aquatics, the Eton wet-bobbing (q.v.). As verb, (1) to drink: see Lush (1598); (2) to increase nominal capital by the issue of shares for which, though they rank for interest, no additional increase in the actual capital has been provided: the practice, it is urged, is justified by profits already earned, or by a supposed enhancement of the value of the property, franchises, etc.; but watering is usually only resorted to by companies on the down grade; hence as subs., additional shares created in this way. *Canterbury water*, the blood of Thomas à Becket diluted with water: Archbishop of Canterbury, murdered in 1170, canonised as a saint and martyr. Phrases: *Above water*, unembarrassed, untroubled, in (or of) easy circumstances, mind, or the like: whence *to keep one's head above water*, to struggle through (or overcome), financial difficulties; *between wind and water* (see Wind); *in deep water*, (1) in trial, trouble, distress; (2) impecunious, reduced in circumstances: hence *deep waters*, tribulation of sorts; *of the first water*, the highest, A1: properly of a diamond free from blemish, flaw, colour, or any imperfection; *to make a hole in the water*, to fall in it: spec. to commit suicide by drowning: cf. to make a hole in the silence, to speak; *oil on troubled waters*, anything to allay, assuage: the practice is ancient, being known to the Greeks and Romans, and its efficacy is frequently tested by modern seamen; *to be in hot water*, to be in trouble, difficulties, or disgrace; *to show water*, to bribe, to produce a fee; *to cast one's water* (see verb); *to cast water into the Thames*, to do the unnecessary or useless (see Thames); *to hold water*, to prove serviceable or adequate; *to take water*, to back out (or down), to weaken (q.v.): as a boat when allowed to fall in the wake of another in a race; *to draw water with a sieve*, to act absurdly; *to throw cold water on*, to discourage, damp one's ardour, interest, or chances; *water in one's shoes*, a cause of annoyance or discomfort; *to water one's plants*, to shed tears. Also proverbially: My mouth *waters*, a simile of strong appetite or longing desire: also said of the teeth; That's where the *water* sticks, That's the point in dispute; All *water* runs to his mill, Fortune smiles on him, Everything goes his way; No safe wading in an unknown *water*; Often to the *water*, often to the tatter; Foul *water* will quench fire; Where the *water* is shallow no vessel will ride; *Water* breeds frogs in the belly, and wine cures the worms; I'll make him *water* his horse at Highgate (i.e. I'll sue him and make him take a journey up to London)—(*Ray*); The malt's above the *water*, He's drunk (see Screwed) (1530).

Water-bewitched. Weak lap (q.v.) of any kind: spec. (modern) tea very much watered down, but orig. (1672) very thin beer: also *water-damaged*: cf. Husband's-tea.

Water-butt (or **barrel**). The stomach: spec. a corporation (q.v.).

Water-can. In saying Jupiter Pluvius has got out (or put on) his *water-can*, It is raining: spec. of a heavy shower.

Water-colour. See Wife in Water-colours.

Water-doctor. 1. A hydropathist. 2. A water-caster (q.v.).

Water-dog. 1. A sailor: spec. an old salt (q.v.). 2. Any one completely at home in, or on, the water (1835). 3. A Norfolk dumpling.

Water-drop. A tear; also *waterworks*, the eyes, the tear-pump: whence *to turn on the waterworks*, to cry (1605).

Waterfall. 1. A neckcloth, scarf, or tie with long pendant ends. Also, 2. a chignon: spec. a fringe of hair falling down the neck under the chignon (1824).

Water-funk. A boy shy of water: either in the way of personal cleanliness or aquatics.

Water-gunners (The). The Royal Marines.

Wateries (The). The Naval Exhibition at South Kensington: cf. Fisheries, Colinderies, etc.

Waterings. *St. Thomas à Waterings*, a place of execution (for Surrey, as Tyburn (q.v.), for Middlesex) situated at the second milestone on the road from London to Canterbury. Like Beggar's-bush, Weeping-cross, Clapham, etc., the place-name was the basis of many a quibbling allusion and much conventional wit. [At this point is a brook, probably a place for watering horses, whence its name; dedicated, of course, to St. Thomas à Becket, being the first place of any note in the pilgrimage to his shrine (1383).

Water-language. Jocose abuse, chaff (q.v.).

Waterloo-day. Pay-day: cf. Balaclava-day.

Waterman. A blue silk handkerchief: cf. Fogle. [*Hotten*: The friends of the Oxford and Cambridge boats' crews always wear these—light blue for Cambridge, and a darker shade for Oxford.] Also *waterman*.

Waterologer. See Water.

Water-pad (or **rat**). A thief working on the water: spec. one that robs ships in the Thames (*B. E.*).

Water-pusher (or **treader**). A ship: sail or steam (1614).

Water-sneak (The). Robbing ships or vessels on a navigable river or canal, by getting on board unperceived, generally in the night. The water-sneak is lately made a capital offence (*Grose*).

Waterworks. See Water-drop.

Watlynge-strete. The Milky Way (1373).

Wattle. In pl., ears; also Sheep-folds (*B. E.*).

Wave. *To wave a flag of defiance,* to be drunk: see Screwed. *To number the waves,* to do the unneedful, act foolishly (1670).

Wavy. *Wavy in the syls,* imperfect in one's lines.

Wavy-rule. *To make wavy rule,* to be staggering drunk. [∿∿∿∿∿∿∿]

Wax. A rage, a passion, a tear (q.v.); also *waxiness,* vexation, and *waxy,* angry: cf. Lowland Scotch *wex,* vex (1490). As verb, to overcome, surmount a difficulty, get the better of: by stratagem or nous (q.v.). *A lad* (or *man*) *of wax,* a smart lad, a clever man (1595). *Close as wax,* as miserly, niggardly, or secretive as may be. *Neat as wax*: see Neat.

Waxed. Well-known: e.g. So-and-so has been well waxed, i.e. We know all about him.

Way. Health, condition, state, calling; e.g. *in a bad way,* shaky in health, pocket, or manner; *only his way,* characteristic: cf. *pretty Fanny's way.* Also in phrases: To look *both* (or *nine*) *ways* for Sundays, to squint; There are no *two ways* about it, the fact is as stated, there's no mistake; *out of the way,* a thief who knows that he is sought after by the traps on some information and consequently goes out of town, or otherwise conceals himself, is said by his pals to be *out of the way for so and so,* naming the particular offence he stands charged with; *to note the way the cat jumps,* to watch the course of events; *to go the way of nature* (or *all flesh*), (1) to be fond of belly cheer, and (2) to die: see Hop the twig; *to know one's way about,* to be well informed, experienced: see Know; *way to St. James'* (or *Walsingham way*), the Milky Way (1670); *the longest way round is the shortest way there,* a warning to the unwary or ignorant that short cuts are proverbial pitfalls: cf. Better go about than fall into the ditch.

Way-bit (Weabit, or Webit). A considerable though indefinite addition to a mile; a bittock (q.v.) (1611).

Way-goose. An entertainment given by an apprentice to his fellow-workmen: spec. (printers') an annual dinner; cf. beanfeast (q.v.). [A corruption of *wayz-goose,* stubble goose, a favourite dish at such festivals: nowadays, among printers, the funds are collected by stewards appointed by the chapel (q.v.)] (1677).

Weak-brother (or sister). An unreliable man (or woman). Cf. also (colloquial) *weakling* (a diminutive), which, as adj., puny, weak; *weak-kneed,* uncertain, vacillating, purposeless (1595).

Weaker-sex. Womankind: also (in singular) *the weaker vessel* [See 1 Peter iii. 7] (1600).

Weanie. See Weenie.

Wear. *To wear it upon a person* (meaning to wear a nose or a conk) is synonymous with nosing, conking, splitting, or coming it, and is merely one of those fanciful variations so much admired by flash people (*Grose*). Phrases: *To wear the heart upon the sleeve* (see Sleeve); *to wear the breeches* (see Breeches); *to wear the willow* (see Willow); *to wear yellow stockings* or *hose* (see Yellow); *to wear the collar,* to be subject to control, or under the direction of another (chiefly political); *to wear the bands* (see Band). *to wear ill* (or *well*), to look older (or younger) than one's years. Also proverbial, Let every cuckold *wear* his own horns; *to wear Pannier-alley* on one's back (see Pannier-man).

Weary. Drunk: see Screwed.

Weasel. A mean, greedy, or sneaking fellow. Also as adj. (1599). See Whistle.

Weather. Phrases: *To make fair weather,* to flatter, coax, conciliate, make the best of things; *to keep the weather eye open,* to be on one's guard, alert, watchful: see Keep one's eyes skinned; *under the weather,* seedy, ill, indisposed; *the clerk of the weather,* the imaginary controller of temperature, rainfall, etc.

Weather-breeder. A hot day which often precedes and prepares a storm.

Weathercock. A fickle, inconstant vacillating person (1596).

Weatherdog. A rainbow, fragmentary and only partly visible: regarded as a presage instead of a concomitant of rain.

Weathergage. Advantage, the upper hand: cf. Windward. Whence *to get the weathergage*, to command, control, have the best of (1813).

Weather-headed. See Wether-headed.

Weather-scupper. It is an old joke at sea to advise a greenhorn to get a handspike and hold it down hard in the weather-scuppers to steady the ship's wild motions (*Clark Russell*).

Weather-spy. A weather-prophet: spec. an astrologer (1631).

Weave. 1. When a knowing blade is asked what he has been doing lately, and does not choose to tell, he replies, Weaving leather aprons (*Hotten*): from the reports of a celebrated trial for gold robbery on the South-Western Railway; similar replies are, Making a trundle for a goose's eye, or a whim-wham to bridle a goose; sometimes a man will describe himself as a doll's-eye weaver. As verb, to roll the neck and body from side to side: of horses; also (American), to walk unsteadily, to make snakes (q.v.): as a shuttle in a loom: spec. of drunken men: usually with *along*, *about*, etc.

Weaving. A card-sharping trick: cards are kept on the knee, or between the knee and the under side of the table, and used when required by changing them for cards held in the hand (*Hotten*).

Web-foot State. Oregon.

Wedding. Cesspool emptying: because always done in the night (*Grose*).

Wedge. 1. Generic for money: spec. silver, money or plate: see Rhino (1785); hence *wedge-feeder*, a silver-spoon; *wedge-lobb*, a silver snuff-box; *wedge-yack*, a silver watch; *wedge-hunter*, a thief, spec. one devoting attention to silver plate, watches, etc.; *to flash the wedge*, to fence (q.v.) the swag (q.v) (1832). 2. (Cambridge University). The last in the classical tripos (q.v.) list: also *wooden wedge*: in 1824, on the publication of the first list, the position was occupied by a T. H. Wedgewood. *To knock out the wedges*, to desert, leave in the lurch (q.v.), abandon one in a difficulty. *The thin* (or *small*) *end of the wedge*, a first move (or a beginning), seemingly trivial, but calculated to lead to important results, a finger in the pie, a manœuvre, shift, artifice.

Wedlock. A wife (1601).

Wee. Small, little, tiny: also *weeny* (which also see) (1596).

Weed. 1. A cigar, a Newtown pippin (q.v.): also *the weed*, tobacco: cf. Cabbage (1844). 2. Generic for sorryness or worthlessness: spec. a horse, unfit for stock, a screw (q.v.): i.e. (racing) an animal lacking the points of a thorough-bred; whence *weedy*, adj., worthless, unfit for stock purposes (1859). 3. In pl., generic for clothes: spec. an outer garment: now only in phrase *widow's weeds*, mourning; whence *weedy*, clad in mourning garments (1320). As verb, To pilfer or purloin a small portion from a large quantity of anything; often done by young or timid depredators, in the hope of escaping detection, as, an apprentice or shopman will weed his master's lob, that is, take small sums out of the till when opportunity offers, which sort of peculation may be carried on with impunity for a length of time; but experienced thieves sometimes think it good judgment to weed a place, in order that it may be good again, perhaps for a considerable length of time, as in the instance of a warehouse, or other depot, for goods, to which they may possess the means of access by means of a false key: in this case, by taking too great a swag at first, the proprietors would discover the deficiency, and take measures to prevent future depredation. *To weed the swag*, is to embezzle part of the booty, unknown to your pals, before a division takes place, a temptation against which very few of the family are proof, if they can find an opportunity. A flash-cove, on discovering a deficiency in his purse or property, which he cannot account for, will declare that he (or it, naming the article) has been wedded to the ruffian (*Grose*). Hence *weeding-dues*: in speaking of any person, place, or property that has been weeded, it is said *weeding dues* have been concerned.

Wee-jee. 1. A chimney-pot. Hence, 2. a hat: see Golgotha. 3. Anything superlatively good of its kind: spec. a clever invention: e.g. That's a regular wee-jee.

Week. Phrases, etc.: *A week of Sundays*, an indefinite time: spec. seven Sundays, hence seven weeks: also *month of Sundays*; *the inside of a week*, from Monday till Saturday; *a parson's week*, from Saturday to Monday; *to knock one into the middle of next week*, to punish severely, knock out of time, do for (q.v.); *an attack of the week's* (or *month's*) *end*, impecuniosity, hard-uppishness; *when two Sundays come in a week*, never: a left-handed assent (1800).

Weekender. A week-end holiday.

Weenie. A warning that an inspector is coming.

Weeper. A conventional badge of mourning: e.g. a white border of linen or muslin worn at the end of a sleeve, a long crape hatband as worn by men at a funeral, or the long veil of widow's-weeds (q.v.) (1759). *To weep Irish*, to lament prodigally, to wail: spec. without sincerity, to shed crocodile's tears (1650).

Weeping-cross. *To return by Weeping-cross*, (1) to fail, suffer defeat, meet with repulse; hence (2) to repent, to lament: cf. Lothbury. [*Nares*: Of the three places now retaining the name, one is between Oxford and Banbury; another very near Stafford, where the road turns off to Walsall; the third being Shrewsbury: these crosses being, doubtless, places where penitents particularly offered their devotions] (1580).

Wegotism. The incessant use of *we* in journalism: cf. Weism.

Weight. 1. The end of one's tether: it is often customary with the traps (q.v.) to wink at depredations of a petty nature, and for which no reward would attach, and to let a thief go unmolested till he commits a capital crime; they then grab him and share a reward of £40, or upwards: therefore those gentry will say, Let him alone . . . till he weighs his weight (*Grose*). 2. Lust, wantonness, heat (q.v.) (1772).

Weird Sisters. (The). The Fates: also Three Weird Sisters (1512).

Weism. The excessive use of *we* in journalism: cf. Wegotism.

Well. An elliptical use of well is peculiar to American speech, especially at the beginning of sentences, as a mere expletive or in answer to questions. [*Lowell*, 'Biglow Papers,' Int.: Put before such a phrase as How d'e do? it is commonly short, and has the sound of *wul*; but, in reply, it is deliberative, and the various shades of meaning which can be conveyed by difference of intonation, and by prolonging or abbreviating, I should vainly attempt to describe. I have heard *ooa-ahl*, *wahl*, *ahl*, *wäl*, and something nearly approaching the sound of *le* in *able*. Sometimes before I it dwindles to a mere *l*; as, 'l, *I* dunno.' A friend told me that he once heard five wells, like pioneers, precede the answer to an inquiry about the price of land. The first was the ordinary *wul*, in deference to custom; the second, the long, perpending *ooahl*, with a falling inflection of the voice; the third, the same, but with the voice rising, as if in despair of a conclusion, into a plaintive, nasal whine; the fourth, *wulh*, ending in the aspirate of a sigh; and then, fifth, came a short, sharp *wal*, showing that a conclusion had been reached.] *To dig a well at a river*, to act the fool, do the unnecessary (*Ray*). *To put one in a well* (*in the garden*, or *in a hole*), (1) to defraud an accomplice of his share of booty: also *to well one* (1785); (2) to inconvenience, nonplus, or get the better of.

Well-in. Well-off, well-to-do, wealthy.

Wellington. In pl., (1) long-legged boots largely worn in the early part of the last century: they came well up the leg, high enough in front to cover the knee and to the bend of the knee behind. Also (2) shorter boots of similar pattern covering the calf of the leg, and worn (usually) under the trousers: cf. Blucher, Albert, Gladstone, etc. [A favourite campaigning foot-gear of the Duke of Wellington.]

Welsh. To cheat: spec. to run away without settling. Hence *welsher*, an absconding bookmaker, a common cheat: also *welcher* (1869).

Welsh-ambassador. The cuckoo (1608).

Welsh-cricket. (1) A louse: and (2), a tailor: cf. Prick-louse (1592).

Welsh-fiddle. The itch (*B. E.*): cf. Scotch-fiddle.

Welshman's-hose. *To turn a thing to a Welshman's-hose*, to suit to one's purpose (1529).

Welsh-rabbit. A dish of toasted cheese. [*Smyth-Palmer*: One of a numerous class of slang expressions—the mock-heroic of the eating-house—in which some common dish or product for which any place or people has a special reputation is called by the name of some more dainty article of food which it is supposed humorously to supersede or equal.] Cf. German-duck, Cobbler's-lobster, Norfolk-capon, Billingsgate-pheasant, and many others (*Grose*) (1772).

Welsh-wig. A worsted cap.

Welsh-parsley. Hemp: hence a hangman's rope.

Welt. To beat severely. Hence *welter*, a stinging blow; and *welting*, a sound thrashing.

Wench. Orig. a child of either sex; subsequently a young woman without any idea of bold familiarity or wantonness long afterwards and still frequently associated with the term. *Wench*, a wanton, mistress, or harlot early came into vogue: nowadays a working girl or woman of humble station in life is usually implied, while in America the word (save in vulgar use) is confined to coloured women, especially those in service (1280).

West-central. A water-closet: i.e. W.C.

Westminster-wedding. A whore and a rogue married together (*B. E.*).

Westphalia. The backside, the bum (q.v.): an allusion to Westphalia hams.

West-pointer. A student, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Westralia. Western Australia. [*Morris*: The word was coined to meet the necessities of the submarine cable regulations, which confine messages to words containing not more than ten letters.]

Westy-head. Dizzy, giddy (*Hall*, 'Satires').

Wet. Generic for drink, booze (q.v.): spec. drink demanded or expected of any one wearing new clothes (*Grose*). Whence *to wet a coat* (*bargain*, *deal*, etc.), to treat (q.v.), to ratify by drinking success. As verb, to drink, lush (q.v.): also *to wet one's whistle* (*clay*, *swallow*, *the red lane*, etc.): Fr., *se mouiller*: see Whistle and Whistle-drunk; *to wet the other eye*, to take one drink after another. As adj., (or *wet-handed*) (1) addicted to drinking, (2) drunk: see Screwed; and (3) (American), anti-prohibition; e.g. a *wet-town*, a town opposed to prohibition in the sale of intoxicants: cf. dry: whence *a wet*, one opposed to prohibition. Also *heavy-wet*, porter; *twopenny-wet* (see Twopenny); *a wet-hand* (*wetter*, or *wet-'un*), a toper: see Lushington; *wet-bargain* (see Bargain); *wet-night*, an evening carousal; *wet-goods*, drink: cf. dry-goods; *wet-Quaker*, (1) a secret drinker, and spec. (2) a drunkard of that sect (*B. E.*); *to wet the sickle*, to drink out earnest-money at harvest-time; *wetting the block*, a custom among shoemakers on the first Monday in March, when they cease from working by candlelight, and have a supper so called (*Halliwell*).

Wet-blanket. See Blanket.

Wet Boat. A boat that is crank and ships water readily (1859).

Wet-bob. See Bob.

Wet-finger. *With a wet finger*, easily, readily: as easy as turning over the leaf of a book, or rubbing out writing on a slate (1561). Also in proverbial wheeze (amongst children), See my finger *wet* (*licking the finger*), see my finger dry (*wiping it dry*), I'll cut my throat (*drawing finger across throat*) before I tell a lie (a strong assurance of veracity).

Wet-goose. A poor simple fellow.

Wetherall. *General Wetherall's in command*, used when a parade is abandoned through inclement weather.

Wether-headed. Silly, superstitious, a bit off: also *Weather-headed*. As subs., a dolt, simpleton, fool: cf. Mutton-head (1695).

Wet-nursed. Coddled, shepherded (q.v.), backed (q.v.): see Nurse.

Wet-un. 1. A diseased beast: cf. Staggering-bob. 2. See Wet.

We-uns. We, us: i.e. we ones: cf. You-uns.

W.F.'s. Wild cattle.

Whack (or **Wack**). 1. A heavy, smart, sounding blow: as verb, to beat, thwack; also a heavy fall, and as verb, to fall (1837). 2. A share; piece; spec. an equal portion (*Grose*): also *whacking*; as verb (or *go whacks*), (1) to divide, to share: and (2) to settle, pay up: e.g. *Whack the blunt*, share the money; *Give me my whack*, Hand me my due. Also *to whack up*. 3. An attempt, a trial, a stroke. 4. Appetite, twist (q.v.). *Whack!* An emphatic expression of doubt; a polite way of giving the lie direct.

Whacker. Anything very large a big thing, a whopper (q.v.); whence: *whacking*, very large.

Whacky. A term applied to anyone doing anything ridiculous or fooling about (q.v.).

Whale (Cheltenham College). 1. Codfish. 2. (Royal Military Academy). A sardine. 3. In pl., anchovies on toast. As verb, (1) to beat, thrash, lash vigorously; hence *whaling*, a trouncing, walloping (q.v.) (1847). (2) To talk vehemently, harangue, spout (q.v.): also *to whale away*. *To fish for herring and catch a whale* (or *sprat*), (1) to get a result other than that expected; hence (2) to catch a tartar (q.v.), fail miserably. *It's very like a whale*, Ironical assent to a preposterous assertion (1596). *To go ahead like a whale*, to forge ahead, to act, speak, or write vigorously. See Tub, and Whaler.

Whalebone. *As white as whalebone*, a common simile for whiteness. [*Halliwell*: Some writers imagined ivory, formerly made from the teeth of the walrus, to be formed from the bones of the whale] (1430).

Whaler. 1. Anything extraordinary of its kind, also whale (q.v.) a regular whale: see Whopper. Hence *whaling*, overwhelming. 2. A sundowner (q.v.): i.e. one who cruises about.

Whang. 1. A blow, a whack; a beating, a banging: as verb, to flog, thrash; also, 2. a banging noise, and as verb, to clatter, throw with violence. 3. A slice, chunk, dollop (q.v.); also as verb, to cut in large strips, slices, or chunks (1678). 4. Formerly, in Maine and some other parts of New England, a house-cleaning party: a gathering of neighbours to aid one of their number in cleaning a house (*Century*). See Whanger.

Whangby. Very hard cheese made of old or skimmed milk (*Halliwell*).

Whangam (**Whangdoodle**, etc.). An imaginary animal: its precise nature, form, and attributes are seemingly left to individual fancy (1759).

Whanger (or **Whang**). Anything big or unusual of its kind. As adj. (or *whanging*), large, strapping.

Whap. See Whop.

Wharf-rat. A thief prowling about wharves; cf. Water-rat.

Wharl. To be unable to pronounce the letter R. Also as subs.

What. 1. That or that which: still a vulgarism: e.g. I had a donkey what wouldn't go (1570). 2. How much (1867). As indef. pro., (*a*) A something, anything: e.g. I'll tell you what (it is); also a bit, portion, a thing: e.g. It's a whangam (q.v.); It's what? (1373). *What's-his-name*, (1) a locution in speaking of what one has either forgotten, thinks so trivial, or does not wish to mention; also *What-d'ye-call-it*, *What-d'ye-call-'em*, *Lord knows what*, *Washical*, etc. cf. Thingumy (1600). *What not*, elliptical for What may I not say; also as subs., no matter what, what you please, et cetera (1592). *To give what for*, to reprimand, call over the coals, castigate, punish (q.v.). *The Lord knows what*, (1) heaps, plenty more, all sorts of things. (2) See What's-his-name. *What ho!* A summons or call: once the recognised formula: long disused save in melodrama and burlesque, but latterly recrudescent in vulgar salutation and expletive (1598). *What price——?* How's that? What do *you* think? How much? What odds? *What* (*Who*, *When*, *Where*, or *How*) *the Devil*, an expletive of wonder, vexation, etc. (1360).

Whatabouts. A matter in hand, something under consideration.

Whatlike. Of what kind.

What-nosed. Drunk, hot-nosed from drinking: see Screwed.

Whatsomever Whatsoever: also *whatsomdever* (1360).

Whay-worm (or **Whey-worm**), A whim, crotchet, maggot (q.v.).

Wheat. See Clean wheat.

Wheaton. *To wheaton it*, to play

sick. [*Bartlett*: The term is derived from the name of old Dr. Wheaton U.S.A., long stationed at West Point College].

Wheedle. To coax, cajole, fawn on, take in (q.v.). As subs., (1) cajolery, a hoax; (2) a flatterer, cajoler; and (3) a sharper (q.v.): *wheedler, wheedlesome, wheedling*, and other derivatives follow as a matter of course (1664).

Wheel. 1. A five-shilling piece; 5s.: see Cart-wheel (*Grose*); also (*Tufts*), a dollar. 2. A bicycle, or tricycle; as verb, to ride a bicycle or tricycle; hence *wheelman* (or *woman*), a cyclist: also *knight of the wheel*; *wheeling*, cycling: also *the wheeling world* (generic for cycledom). *To break a fly* (or *butterfly*) *on a wheel*, to punish unduly, without regard to the gravity of the crime, or the standing of the offender; whence to use means altogether out of proportion to the end in view; to crack a nut with a Nasmyth hammer (1734). *To grease the wheels*, to furnish money for a specific object: see Grease (1809). *To go* (or *run*) *on wheels*, (1) to do with ease, expedition, without exertion; (2) said of one suffering from the after-effects of drunkenness (1772). *To put one's shoulder to the wheel*, to put one's heart into a matter, to buckle to, to do with spirit, resolution, or courage. *Wheels within wheels*, complication, intricacies, something other than that which is apparent at first sight (1730). *To steer a trick at the wheel*: see Trick. *To put a spoke in one's wheel* (or *cart*), to do an ill turn: occasionally (by an unwarrantable inversion), to assist (1661). *Wheel-hand in the nick*, Regular Drinking over the left Thumb (*B. E.*).

Wheelbarrow. *As drunk as a wheelbarrow* (or *as the drum of a wheelbarrow*), very drunk indeed: see Screwed (1675). *To go to heaven in a wheelbarrow*, to go to hell. [In the painted glass at Fairford, Gloucestershire, the devil is represented as wheeling off a scolding wife in a barrow.] (1655).

Wheeler. A horse driven in shafts or next to the wheels: cf. Leader. Also *off-wheeler*, a horse driven on the right-hand side, i.e. the side on which a postilion never rides; *near-wheeler*, the horse on the left-hand side.

Wheel-horse. An intimate friend, one's right-hand man, a leading man (*Bartlett*).

Wheel-of-life. The treadmill, the everlasting-staircase (q.v.).

Wheeze. Generic for a gag (q.v.) of any description: e.g. interpolated lines (usually comic) in a play, a bit of business (q.v.), a sidesman's patter (q.v.), a bon-mot, joke, and so forth; *to crack a wheeze*, to originate (or adapt) a smart saying at a psychological moment. As verb, to say, inform, peach (q.v.).

Wheezy. The first month of the French Republican year: a free translation of *Vindémiare*.

Whelk. 1. A blow (also *whelker*), fall, blister, mark, or stripe. 2. A large number, a quantity: whence *whelking*, very large, big, numerous.

Whelp. 1. A youth, unlicked cub (q.v.); puppy (q.v.): in contempt; as verb, to be brought to bed. 2. A ship of some kind (1630).

When. *Say when!* That is, Say when I shall stop: the dovetail reply is Bob!

Where. See You.

Wherefore. See Why.

Wherewith (or **Wherewithal**). The necessary, requisites: spec. money (generic): see Rhino (1390).

Wherret. See Whirrit.

Wherry-go-nimble. A looseness of the bowels, a back-door trot (q.v.): cf. Jerry-go-nimble.

Whetstone. *To give* (*deserve, win, lie for*, etc.) *the whetstone*, to give (get, or compete for) the prize for lying: a whetstone, i.e. a wit-sharpener, regarded as a satirical premium for what nowadays would be called naked (or monumental) lying. [*Nares*: There were, in some places, jocular games, in which the prize given for the greatest lie was a whetstone.] [*Halliwell*: The liar was sometimes publicly exhibited with the whetstone fastened to him.] (1570).

Whetstone-park. 'A Lane betwixt Holborn and Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, fam'd for a Nest of Wenches, now (*B. E.*, c. 1696) de-park'd.' Whence many allusions in the old dramatists.

Whetter. See Wet.

Whew. Influenza, the flue (q.v.): it is well known that the influenza is not an exclusively modern complaint, but I am not sure whether a curious reference to it by Bower, the continuator of Fordun's chronicle, has been noted. Writing of the year 1420 he says that among those who died in Scotland were Sir Henry St. Clair, Earl of Orkney, Sir James Douglas of Dalkeith, Sir William de Abernethy, Sir William de St. Clair, Sir William Cockburn, and many others, all by that infirmity whereby not only great men, but innumerable quantity of the commonalty perished, which was vulgarly termed le Quhew. Now quh in Scottish texts usually represents the sound of wh (properly aspirated); therefore it seems that in the fifteenth century, the influenza was known as the Whew, just as it is known in the twentieth century as the Flue. There seems little doubt that the disease was identical with that with which we are so grievously familiar (*Notes and Queries*).

Wheyworm. See Whayworm.

Whiblin. 1. An eunuch. 2. A sword (1653).

Whid. (1) A word (1567): in pl., patter, talk, jocular speech. Also (2) (Scotch), a lie, fib; (3) (provincial), a dispute or quarrel. As verb (Scots), to lie. Also *to cut whids*, to talk, to speak; *to cut bien whids*, to talk fairly, softly, kindly; *to cut queer whids*, to abuse, swear, bullyrag (q.v.); also *whiddle*, to talk, tell, or discover (*B. E.* and *Grose*); spec. to reveal secrets, or give the game away: hence *whiddler*, an informer.

Whiddle. See Whid and Oliver.

Whiff. 1. A smell; as verb, to smell: e.g. How it whiffs. 2. A draught, a drink, a go (q.v.): as verb, to drink: also *whiffle* (1653).

Whiffet. Anything or anybody worthless or insignificant, a whippersnapper (q.v.).

Whiffle. 1. Generic for trifling: to hesitate, talk idly, prevaricate, waver; hence *whiffler*, a trifler, a fickle or unsteady person; *whifflery* (*whiffling*, or *whiffle-whaffle*), levity, nonsense; *whiffling*, uncertain (1607). 2. To drink.

Whig. 1. Orig. (middle 17th century) a Presbyterian zealot, a conventicler: in contempt. Whence, 2. the Country party (the successors of the Roundheads of the Civil War) as opposed to the Court party or Tories (q.v.), of the Restoration. Both Whig and Tory were first applied, about 1680, in contempt, and both were ultimately assumed with pride. The Whigs favoured the Revolution of 1688-89, and were in power during a large portion of the eighteenth century. The Whigs may be regarded as the party of experimental progress. The curious similarity in the historical development of both Whig and Tory is further accentuated by the fact that at the same time (Reform Bill, 1832) as the term Tory began to be superseded by Conservative, so likewise the Whigs began to be called Liberals. Also *Whigland*, Scotland (*B. E.*); the *Whig College*, the Reform Club; *Whiggish*, and the usual derivatives and combinations. 3. During the war of the American Revolution, the terms Whig and Tory were applied,—the former to those who supported the Revolutionary movement, the latter to the royalists, or those who adhered to the British government (*Bartlett*).

Whim. 1. A maggot (*B. E.*). Hence *Whimsical*, maggotish: see Bee in bonnet, and Maggot. 2. See Jiggumbob.

Whimling. A person childish, weak, or full of whims, a crotcheteer. *Whimmy*, whimsical (1610).

Whimper. *On the whimper*, peevish, whining, crying: also *Whimper* a low or small cry. What a Whimpering you keep (*B. E.*).

Whim-wham. 1. A trinket, trifle, fal-lal. Hence, 2. generic for rubbish, nonsense (1500).

Whindle. A low or feigned crying (*B. E.*).

Whine. To cry squeakingly, as at Conventicles (*B. E.*).

Whiner. A word; in pl., speech, talk, gab (q.v.); spec. (thieves') prayers. *To chop the whiners*, to talk, to say prayers.

Whip. 1. A driver, a coachman: also *knight of the whip* (1778). 2. A member who (unofficially) looks after the interests of his party; prob. from *whipper-in*. [*Bryce*: The whip's duties are (*a*) to inform every member belonging to the party when an important division may be expected, and if he sees the member in or about the House, to keep him there until the division is called; (*b*) to direct the members of his own party how to vote; (*c*) to obtain pairs for them if they cannot be present to vote; (*d*) to tell, i.e. count the members in every party division: (*e*) to keep touch of opinion within the party, and convey to the leader a faithful impression of that opinion, from which the latter may judge how far he may count on the support of his whole party in any course he proposes to take.] Also (3) the call made for attendance at a division, etc.; and as verb (or *to whip in*, or *up*) (1836). 4. A compositor quick in setting type; a type-slinger (which also see). As verb, (1) to surpass, beat, defeat, overcome; hence *whipping*, defeat: e.g. to whip the enemy (or give them a whipping) to whip creation, etc. (1859); (2) to swindle; (3) generic for quick, smart action: e.g. to *whip on* (*up*, *off*, *out*, etc.): frequently with an idea of stealth; also *whip*, quickly, instanter (1360). *To drink* (or *lick*) *on the whip*, to get a thrashing, to taste the whip (1401). *To whip the cat*, (1) to pinch, to be parsimonious, mean, stingy; (2) to go from house to house to work: chiefly tailors', but the practice was more or less common to all trades; hence *whip-cat*, a tailor; (3) to idle on Monday, to keep St. Monday; 4. (*a*) To get tipsy: see Screwed: also *to whip* (*jerk*, or *shoot the cat*, or *to cat*); also (*b*) to vomit; hence *whipcat*, drunken; *Whipcan*, a toper; (5) to indulge in practical jokes: spec. a trick often practised on ignorant country fellows, vain of their strength; by laying a wager with them, that they may be pulled through a pond by a cat; the bet being made, a rope is fixed round the waist of the party to be catted, and the end thrown across the pond, to which the cat is also fastened by a pack-thread, and three or four sturdy fellows are appointed to lead and whip the cat; these, on a signal given, seize the end of the cord, and pretending to whip the cat, haul the astonished booby through the water (*B. E.*). *To whip the devil round the stump*, to make false excuses to one's self and others for doing what one likes; to equivocate, to say, pretend, or do one thing, and mean, or act differently.

Whip-belly. Thin weak liquor: spec. bad beer, swipes (q.v.): also *whip-belly - vengeance*: cf. Rot - gut (1709).

Whip-broth. A beating: cf. Hazel-oil, Thimble-pie, etc. (1630).

Whipcan. A toper, tippler, boon-companion: in orig. *fesse-pinte* (1653).

Whip-hand. *To have the whip-hand* (or *whip-handle*), to have an advantage, to be in a position to command, to have the best of a matter (1697).

Whip-her-jenny. A term of contempt.

Whip-jack. A beggar shamming shipwreck; hence a generic term of contempt (1530).

Whip-king. One who controls or compels a king; a king-maker (1610).

Whipmaster. A flagellator: the actual word in the orig., which has long been recognised as standard English: see Whipper (1725).

Whipper. 1. Anything super-excellent (1530). 2. A flagellant: see whipmaster (1656).

Whipper-in. See Whip.

Whipper-snapper. A very small but sprightly boy (*B. E.*), spec. a precocious callow youth, or pert girl: always more or less in contempt. As adj., diminutive, insignificant: also, *Whipping-snapping*.

Whipping-boy. 1. A boy, companion to a prince, educated with him, and punished in his stead. 2. A horse finishing last.

Whipping-cheer. Flogging, flagellation, punishment: cf. Belly-cheer (1598).

Whippy. A pert girl, forward young woman.

Whip-round. A subscription got up for any purpose: see Whip.

Whipsaw. At faro to win at one turn, to beat in two ways at once; hence to win hands down, to beat an opponent willy-nilly.

Whipshire. Yorkshire (1696).

Whipster. A sharp or subtil fellow (*B. E.*); a sharper (*Bailey*); a sly, cunning blade (q.v.): also (old) *whipstroke* (like *whipster*), a term of abuse (1530).

Whip-sticks. The Dunaberg and Witepsk Railway shares.

Whirligig. 1. A whim, caprice, maggot (q.v.), bee (q.v.) (1635). 2. Change, the turn of the wheel, the lapse of time, Time or the World in the abstract (1602). 3. A carriage: also *Whirlicote* (1633). 4. Applied to various toys or the like: e.g. (*a*) a top or top-like toy, (*b*) a tee-totum, (*c*) a round-about or merry-go-round: also *whirler* and *whirl-about*; and (*d*) a turnstile (1530). 5. An instrument for punishing petty offenders: a kind of wooden cage, turning on a pivot, in which the culprit was whirled round with great velocity.

Whirrit (**Wherret**, or **Whirrick**). A blow, slap, box on the ear. As verb, to box the ears (1577).

Whishler. A ringmaster.

Whisk. 1. A servant: in contempt (1653). 2. An impertinent fellow, saucebox (q.v.), bouncer (q.v.).

Whisker-bed. The face (1853).

Whiskers (or **Whiskerando**). A whiskered person: a jocular salutation, Hallo, *Whiskers!* Also *Whiskery* and *Whiskerandoed*. [From Don Ferolo *Whiskerandos* in *Sheridan's* 'Critic,' 1779].

Whiskey (**Tim-whiskey** or **Timmy-whiskey**). A light one-horse chaise without a hood (1772).

Whiskey-bloat. A person bloated from drinking whisky (*Bartlett*).

Whiskeyfied (or **Whiskified**). Drunk, bemused with whisky: see Screwed (1857).

Whiskey-mill. A grog-shop, a grocery with a license (1870).

Whisking. Large, great, whopping (q.v.) (1731).

Whisk-telt. Whorish.

Whisky-frisky. Flighty, maggoty (q.v.) (1782).

Whisper. A secret tip (q.v.): spec. information passed from mouth to mouth on the pretence of secrecy. Hence *to give the whisper*, (1) to blaze abroad a supposed secret, and (2) to give a quick tip (*Hotten*); a *whisper at the post*, an owner's final instructions to a jockey. As verb, to borrow: spec. small sums. Hence *whisperer*, a petty borrower. *Angel's whisper*, the call to defaulters' drill: usually extra fatigue duty. *Pig's-whisper*, (1) a grunt: (2) a very short space of time: that is, as brief as a grunt: also (American) *Pig's-whistle*.

Whispering syl.-slinger. A prompter [that is, syllable-slinger].

Whister-clister (**Whister-snefet**, **Whister-snivet**, **Whister-twister**, or **Whister-poop**). A thumping blow: spec. a back-handed blow (1542).

Whistle. 1. The throat, red-lane (q.v.); hence *to wet* (or *whet*) *one's whistle*, to drink (see Wet): Fr., *s'affûter le sifflet* (1383). 2. A whim, fancy, caprice; whence *to pay for one's whistle*, to pay high (or dearly). [The allusion is to a story told (1779) by Dr. Franklin (*Works* [1836], ii. 182) of his nephew, who set his mind on a common whistle, which he bought of a boy for four times its value.] As verb, to inform (1815). Phrases: *To whistle and ride*, to work and talk. *To go whistle*, to go to the deuce, to be discomfited or disappointed; *to whistle for a wind*, (1) old salts of a superstitious turn of mind will *whistle* for a breeze during a calm: during a storm they would not dream of so doing: hence *to whistle for*, to stand small chance of getting; (2) a jocular offer of aid to one long in commencing to urinate; *at one's whistle*, at call; *worth the whistle*, worth notice, attention, or a call; *to whistle down the wind*, to talk for talking's sake, to talk idly, or to no purpose; *as clean as a whistle*, neat (q.v.), slick (q.v.) (1547).

Whistle-belly-vengeance. Bad beer, swipes (q.v.); hence indifferent lap (q.v.) of any kind: cf. Whip-belly-vengeance.

Whistle-cup. A drinking cup with a whistle attached: the last toper capable of using the whistle received the cup as a prize. Also a tankard fitted with a whistle, so arranged as to sound when the vessel was emptied, thus warning the drawer that more liquor was required.

Whistle-drunk. Very drunk indeed (1749).

Whistle-jacket. Small beer.

Whistler. 1. A broken-winded horse, a roarer (q.v.). 2. An unlicensed vendor of spirits. Hence *whistling-shop*, an illicit dram-shop (1837).

Whistling- (or **Puffing-**) **billy.** A locomotive.

Whistling-breeches. Corduroy trousers.

Whit. A prison: see **Cage**: spec. Newgate (1676).

White. 1. In pl., leucorrhœa. 2. In pl., white clothes, vestments, or goods (1644). 3. (*a*) The centre of a target: Fr., *blanc*: formerly painted white: cf. Bull's-eye; whence (*b*) the object in view, a mark; *to hit the white*, to be right (1580). 4. In pl., the white of the eyes (1662). As adj., (1) thus *white* (fair or specious) *words*; *white* (lucky) *day*: cf. Red-letter day; *white* (excusable) *lie* (*Grose*); *white* (venial) *crime*; *white* (friendly) *witch*; *white* (honourable) *man*, formerly, fair, handsome; *white* (guiltless) *way*; *white* (auspicious) *hour*; *white* (beneficially levied) *mail* (1300). 2. See Whiteboy. 3. See White-lot. As verb, to gloss over, to rehabilitate: also (modern) *whitewash*, which spec. to clear of debt by process of the Bankruptcy Court. Hence *whitewash*, a veneer of respectability; with *whitewasher* and *whitewashing* as derivatives. Also *to use one white*, (1) to deal fairly and justly, and (2) to act on the square (q.v.) (1616). *To spit white*, to expectorate from a dry but healthy mouth: also to *spit white broth* (or *sixpences*); Fr., *cracher des pièces de dix sous* (1594).

White-apron. A harlot (1599).

White-ash Breeze. The breeze caused by rowing: oars are generally made of white ash.

Whiteboy. 1. A generic endearment: also (of a favourite son) *white son*: see White (1554). 2. (Irish political). A member of a secret political society, agrarian in character (*c.* 1759-60). [*Lecky*: Their object was to do justice to the poor by restoring the ancient commons and redressing other grievances. This they sought to accomplish by throwing down fences, levelling enclosures, and generally destroying the property of any one—landlords, agents, Protestant clergy, tax or tithe collectors—who had made themselves obnoxious to the association. They styled themselves Whiteboys, because during their nocturnal excursions they covered their usual attire with white shirts. This disguise was used principally to enable them, while scouring through the darkness, to recognise each other. 3. London rioters (1768).

Whitechapel. 1. A light two-wheeled cart, a coster's barrow, a shoful (q.v.): also *Whitechapel-cart*, *Whitechapel-brougham*, and *Chapel-cart*. 2. Tossing two out of three: cf. Sudden death. 3. See Whitechapel-play.

Whitechapel-play (Whitechapel). Anything mean, paltry, or unsportsmanlike: cf. Bungay-play.

Whitechapel-portion. A clean apron and an umbrella; also a clean gown and a pair of pattens (*Hotten*).

Whitechapel-shave. Whitening applied to the jaws with the palm of the hand.

White-choker. (1) A white tie: hence (2) a parson.

White-crow. A rarity; hence an apparent contradiction in terms which is none the less a fact. [Albino crows are occasionally met with.]

White-eye. Maize whisky.

White-feather. See Feather.

Whitefriars. See Alsatia.

White-horse. A white-crested dancing wave (1849). *To be white-horsed in*, to obtain a berth through influence.

White-house. The official residence of the President of the United States, Washington: from its colour. Its official designation is Executive Mansion (*Century*).

White-livered. Cowardly, mean. [An old notion was that cowards had bloodless livers] (1548).

White-lot. A silver watch and chain: or (old) *white-stuff* (or *wedge*); cf. Red. *White-clock* (or *white-'un*), a silver watch; *white jenny*, a foreign-made silver watch (*Hotten*). *White-money*, silver; *the white and the red*, silver and gold. *Smooth white*, a shilling: see Rhino (1369).

White Man's Hansom Woman. A brown or yellow mistress.

White-Moor. A Genoese (1642).

Whiteness. (1) Chastity: also *white* (or *cold*) *sheets*; (2) nakedness.

White-poodle. A rough woolly cloth.

White-prop. A diamond scarf-pin: also *sparkle-* (or *spark-*) *prop.*

Whiter (Harrow School). A white waistcoat: permissible after three years at the school: cf. *-er.*

White-satin (lace, tape, wine, or ribbon). Gin: see Drinks (1820).

White-sergeant. A breeches-wearing wife: the general (q.v.), the grey-mare (q.v.).

White-trash. A poor white; Southern states: also *poor white folk* (1856).

Whitewash. 1. See White. 2. A glass of sherry as a finish, after drinking port or claret (*Hotten*).

Whitewashers. The second battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, late the 61st Foot.

Whither-go-thee. A wife (1696).

Whiting. *To let leap a whiting*, to miss an opportunity.

Whiting-mop. (1) A young and pretty girl; hence (2) an endearment: also *whiting* (1525).

Whiting's-eye. An amorous glance, sheep's-eye (q.v.) (1673).

Whitsun-ale. See Ale. Hence *Whitsun-lord*, the master of ceremonies at a Whitsun merrymaking (1633).

Whittle. 1. To confess at the gallows. Also (thieves') to dose (q.v.), to peach (q.v.) (1727). 2. See Whittled.

Whittled. Drunk, cut (q.v.): see Screwed. Hence *whittle*, to make tipsy, and as subs., a merry-making, drinking-bout, etc. (1586).

Whizzer. A falsehood (*Halliwell*).

Whoball (John). *He is none of John Whoball's children*, He will be abused at no man's hands if he may (*Withals*).

Whole. See Boiling, Team, and all nouns in the various combinations.

Whop (Wap, Woppe, Whap). A blow. As verb, to beat (1360). As intj., Whack! (q.v.), Whip! (q.v.), Bang! (q.v.).

Whopper (Whapper). Anything very large, fine, good: a generic intensive (*Grose*): also *whopping*, extremely fine, very large, A1 (q.v.) (1520).

Whop-straw (or Johnny Whopstraw), A countryman, rustic, clodhopper (q.v.).

Why and Wherefore (The). The reason, cause (1593).

Why-not. *To have* (or *be*) *at a why-not*, to have, stand, or be in a dilemma; to pull up suddenly, to meet with a sudden check or reverse (1612).

Wibble. Weak lap (q.v.); any thin, weak beverage.

Wibble-wobble. Unsteadily.

Wibling's-witch. The four of clubs.

Wicked. (1) Roguish, mischievous; and (2) amorous, wanton, e.g. a *wicked* twinkle in the eye, to look *wicked*, etc. (1600).

Wicket. The mouth, gutter-alley (q.v.) (1557).

Widdy. 1. A widow. 2. See Widow.

Widdle. See Oliver.

Widdy-waddy. Trifling, insignificant.

Wide. 1. Well-informed, knowing (q.v.), keen, alert, up to snuff (q.v.): also *wide-awake* and *wido*: cf. Narrow (1834). 2. Indifferent, wide of the mark, out of the running, adrift: hence generic for bad (1612).

Wide-awake. A soft felt hat with a broad brim. So called (*Grose*) because it never had a nap and never wants one. See Wide.

Widgeon. A simpleton: see Buffle.

Widow. The gallows: see Nubbing-cheat. Also (Scots) *the widdy*, and Fr., *veuve* (formerly the gallows. now applied to the guillotine) (1796).

Widow-bewitched. A woman separated from her husband: cf. grass-widow (1725).

Widow's-man. An imaginary sailor borne on the books, and receiving pay and prize money, which is appropriated to Greenwich Hospital (*Marryat*).

Widow's-weeds. 1. An unmarried mother (*B. E.*). 2. See Weed.

Wife. A leg-shackle. *As much need of a wife as a dog of a side-pocket*, said of a weak, old, debilitated man (*Grose*). *Wife in water-colours*, (1) a morganatic wife; and (2) a mistress or concubine: cf. Fr., *collage à la détrempe*.

Wifey. A wife, an endearment.

Wiffle-woffle. In pl., the stomach-ache, sorrow, the dumps (q.v.); generic.

Wig. 1. To move off, go away. 2. To rate, scold, carpet: spec. to call over the coals publicly. Whence *wigging*, a public rebuke or reprimand: *ear-wigging*, a more or less private calling over the coals (1837).

Wig-block. The head.

Wigsby. A jocular appellation for a man wearing a wig: cf. Rudesby, Four-eyes, Barnacles, etc. (*Grose*).

Wild. A village, the country: cf. Weald.

Wild-brain. A harebrain, silly, soft (q.v.) fellow.

Wild-cat. Reckless, hazardous,

unsound: orig. applied to banking enterprises of doubtful (if of no worse) character: cf. Blue-pup, Red-dog, etc. [*Bartlett*: A bank in Michigan had a large vignette on its notes representing a panther, familiarly called a wild-cat. This bank failed, a large amount of its notes were in circulation, which were denominated wild-cat money, and the bank issuing them the wild-cat bank. Other banks stopped payment soon after, and the term became general in Michigan, to denote banking institutions of an unsound character.] Hence *wild-cat currency, schemes*, etc. (1842).

Wild-goose. A recruit for the Irish Brigade in the service of France in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Wild-goose Chase. The pursuit of anything unprofitable or absurd; a blind hunt. [*Dyce*: Orig. a kind of horse-race, in which two horses were started together, and whichever rider could get the lead, the other was obliged to follow him over whatever ground he chose to go] (1595).

Wild Indians (The). The Prince of Wales' Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians). Both battalions trace some sort of connection with the Indians of N. America and the Indians of the East: the first battalion having formerly been the 100th Foot, an expression of Canadian loyalty at the time of the Mutiny, and the 2nd battalion, the 109th (Bombay Infantry) Regiment, originally raised by the Hon. East India Company.

Wild Irishman (The). The evening mail train between Euston and Holyhead: cf. Flying Dutchman, etc.

Wild-mare. The nightmare. *To ride the wild mare*, to play at see-saw (1580).

Wild-oats. (1) Youthful pranks or folly; hence (2) a rake or debauchee. *To sow one's wild oats*, to indulge in folly or dissipation, and (by implication) to grow steady (1570).

Wild-rogue. A thorough-paced thief; a rogue brought up to stealing from infancy.

Wild Train. A train not on the time-tables of the road, and therefore irregular, and not entitled to the track, as the railread phrase is, as against a regular train.

William. An acceptance. *To meet sweet William*, to meet a bill on presentation.

Willow. 1. A bat. 2. Mourning. Hence *to wear the willow*, to lament the dead (1595).

Willy-nilly (Will I, Nil I, etc.). Willing or unwilling, *nolens volens*, Whether I will or not. As adj., vacillating: see Nilly-willy and Shilly-shally (1563).

Wilt. To run away.

Win (Wyn, or Wing). A penny; 1d.: see Rhino (1608).

Winchester-goose. (1) A bubo; (2) a person thus infected; and (3) generally in contempt. [The stews (q.v.) in Southwark were, in the 16th century, under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Winchester.] Also *Winchester-pigeon* (1585).

Wind. 1. Breath, lung-power; and 2. (pugilists') the stomach: i.e. below the belt, a forbidden point of attack in legitimate boxing. Hence *winder*, anything that deprives one of the power of breathing; *to nap a winder*, (1) to be hung, and (2) to get a settler (q.v.) (1362). Phrases: *To take wind*, to be known, to transpire; *to sail near* (or *close to*) *the wind*, (1) to take every risk, and (2) to border on malpractice; *to raise the wind*, to borrow (or procure) money: usually by shift, flying a kite (q.v.), or bills of accommodation; *to go down the wind*, to decay; *to slip one's wind*, to die; *to take the wind*, to gain an advantage; *to have one in the wind*, to understand a person; Is the *wind* in that door? Is that so?; *wind enough to last a Dutchman a week*, enough and to spare; *between wind and water*, in a vulnerable spot; *down the wind*, verging towards ruin or decay; *the way the wind blows*, the position of a matter, the state of affairs; *three* (more or less) *sheets in the wind* (see Sheets); *in the wind*, (1) astir, afoot; and (2) a matter of surmise or suspicion; *to carry the wind*, to be high-spirited or mettlesome: properly of horses tossing the nose as high as the ears; *to have the wind of*, to keep strict watch; *too near the wind*, mean, stingy (nautical) (1546). *To wind one's cotton*, to give trouble.

Wind-bag. An incessant frothy talker: also Gas-bag.

Winding-sheet. Grease (or wax)

drippings guttering down the side of a candle: deemed an omen of death by the superstitious (*Grose*): cf. Thief (1859).

Wind-jammer. 1. A sailing vessel: cf. Smoke-stack. 2. A player on a wind instrument.

Windmill, J.P. Formerly used in New South Wales for any J.P. who was ill-educated and supposed to sign his name with a cross (x).

Window. 1. In pl., the eyes, the peepers (q.v.). 2. A blank space in a writing (1556). *Goldsmith's-window*, a rich working in which the gold shows freely. See Turn.

Window-bar. In pl., Lattice-work on a woman's stomacher, or modesty-piece (q.v.) (1609).

Window-dressing. Manipulation of figures and accounts to show fictitious or exaggerated value: brought into prominence during the trial of Whitaker Wright for fraud in connection with the balance-sheets of the London and Globe Corporation (1904).

Window-fishing. Entering a house by means of a window.

Wind-pudding. Air. *To live on wind-pudding*, to go hungry.

Windstopper. A garotter.

Windsucker. 1. A querulous fault-finder, grizzle-guts (q.v.); one ready to catch another tripping or to pick holes; one on the lookout for a blemish or weak spot (1603).

Windward. *To get to the windward* (or *windward side*) *of one*, to get an advantage, the better of one, or the best position.

Windy. Talkative, boastful, vain. *Windy-wallets*, a noisy prater, vain boaster, romancing yarnster.

Wine. A wine-drinking party (1847).

Wine-bag. A drunkard who makes wine his special tipple (q.v.).

Winey. Drunk: see Screwed.

Wing. A quid or thereabouts of tobacco. As verb, (1) to wound slightly: orig. to shoot in the arm or shoulder; (2) to undertake a part at short notice and study it in the wings.

Wink. See Eye, Forty, Tip.

Winker. (1) The eye; and (2) in pl., eyelashes.

Winking. *Like winking*, very quickly (1837).

Winks. Periwinkles.

Winter-cricket. A tailor.

Winter-hedge. A clothes-horse.

Wipe. 1. A handkerchief: orig. *wiper*, a hand towel. 2. A blow; literally or figuratively. As verb, to strike: e.g. a wipe (a rap) over the knuckles (1577). Phrases: *To wipe one down*, (1) to flatter, (2) to pacify; *to wipe off a score*, to pay one's debts; *to wipe a person's eye*, (1) to shoot game which another has missed, (2) to gain an advantage through skilful manipulation; *to wipe the other eye*, to take another drink; *to wipe out*, to kill, to exterminate; *to wipe one's nose*, to cheat; *to wipe up the floor with one*, to completely demolish an adversary; to *wipe a person's nose* (see Nose).

Wire. 1. A telegram. Also as verb. 2. An expert pickpocket: see Thief (1851). *To wire in* (or *away*), to set to with a will, to apply oneself perseveringly and zealously.

Wired-up. Irritated, provoked.

Wire-puller (or **worker**). A manipulator of party and other interests, working by means more or less secret; a political intriguer. Hence *to pull the wires*, to exercise a commanding secret political influence. Also *wire-pulling* (1848).

Wishy-washy. Weak, insipid, rotten (q.v.) (1748).

Wisker. A lie (1694).

Wisp. *To give* (*wear*, or *show*) *a wisp*, a wisp or small twist, of straw or hay, was often applied as a mark of opprobrium to an immodest woman, a scold, or similar offenders; even the showing it to a woman was, therefore, considered as a grievous affront. It was the badge of the scolding woman, in the ceremony of skimmington (q.v.) (1567).

Wittol. A husband who knows of, and endures his wife's unfaithfulness; a contented cuckold. As verb, to make a wittol. [*Skeat*: From *woodwale*, a bird whose nest is often invaded by the cuckoo, and so has the offspring of another palmed off on it for its own; like *Cuckold*, from *Cuckoo.*] (1513).

Wiwi. A Frenchman. [That is, *Oui, Oui!*]

Wobble. See Wabble.

Wobbler. An infantryman.

Wobble-shop. A shop where intoxicants are sold without a license.

Wolf. To devour ravenously:

hence *wolfer*, a greedy feeder or guzzling tosspot: also *a wolf in the stomach*, famished; *to keep the wolf from the door*, to keep hunger and want at bay (1513). Phrases: *Dark as a wolf's mouth* (or *throat*), pitch dark; *to cry wolf*, to raise a false alarm; *to have a wolf by the ears*, to know not what to say or do; *to see a wolf*, (1) to lose one's voice, and (2) to be seduced (Fr., *avoir vu le loup*).

Wolfe's Own. The first battalion of The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, late the 47th Foot; the black worm in the gold lace is in memory of the Hero of Quebec.

Wolverine State (The), Michigan: its inhabitants are *Wolverines*.

Wollop. See Wallop.

Woman. A term of abuse; spec. a harlot. Whence *to woman* (or *womanize*), (1) to scold or abuse, and (2) to wanton; *to make an honest woman* (see Honest).

Wonner. See One-er.

Woodcock. 1. A simpleton (1593). 2. A tailor.

Woodcock's-cross. Penitence for folly: cf. Weeping-cross, etc. (1630).

Woodcock's-head. A pipe. [Early pipes were frequently so fashioned] (1599).

Wooden-fit. A swoon.

Wooden-legged mare. The gallows: see Nubbing-cheat.

Wooden-nutmeg State (The). Cincinnati.

Wooden-overcoat (or surtout). A coffin.

Wooden-ruff. The pillory.

Wooden-spoon (Cambridge). The student last on the list of mathematical honours. See Tripos, Gulf, Twelve Apostles, Wrangler, etc.

Wooden-sword. *To wear the wooden-sword*, to overstand the market.

Woodman. A carpenter, chips (q.v.).

Wool. Hair: cf. the wheezes, He has no wool on the top of his head in the place where the wool ought to grow; and *Keep your wool on*, don't get angry, keep quiet. As verb, to rumple or towsle the hair. Phrases: *More squeak than wool*, more noise than substance; *great cry and little wool*, Much ado about nothing: see Cider; *To pull the wool over one's eyes*, to impose upon, deceive, delude, or use the pepper-box (q.v.); *to go wool gathering*, to indulge in idle fancies, act stupidly (1475).

Wool-bird. A sheep.

Woolfist. A term of reproach (1606).

Wool-hole. A workhouse: see Large House.

Wooston (Christ's Hospital). Very: that is whoreson: e.g. a wooston jolly fellow, I'm *wooston* chaffy.

Word. A *word and a blow*, immediate action: as adj., instantly (1710).

Work. To steal. Phrases: *To make work*, to cause (or make) a disturbance, kick up a shindy (q.v.); *to work the oracle*, to manœuvre, to victimise.

World. *All the world and his wife*, every one (1709).

Worm. A policeman.

Worm-crusher. A foot sodier: cf. Mudcrusher.

Worm-fence. A zig-zag rail-fence; a Virginia-fence (q.v.) (1839).

Worricrow. A scarecrow.

Worth. See Bean, Candle, Cent, Cracker, Curse, Fig, Fly, Game, Louse, Nutshell, Pear, Rap, Straw.

W. P. See Warming-pan.

Wrap-rascal. A cloak or coat (1753).

Wren. A prostitute frequenting the Curragh Camp.

Wretch. *Poor wretch*, a term of endearment.

Wretchcock (or Wrechock). A puny, insignificant person, a poor wretch.

Wright (Mr.). A warder acting as go-between for a prisoner and his friends.

Wringle-gut. A nervous, fidgety man.

Wrinkle. A new idea, useful hint, cunning trick, smart dodge (1555).

Writerling. An author of the baser sort, a petty journalist (1802).

Writings. *To burn the writings*, to quarrel.

Wrokin. A Dutch woman.

Wrong. In various combinations and phrases: e.g. *Wrong in the upper storey*, crazy; *in the wrong box*, mistaken, embarrassed, in jeopardy; *the wrong end of the stick*, the worst of a position, the false of a story; *to* *wake up the wrong passenger,* to make a mistake in the individual, to get the wrong sow by the ear; *to laugh on the wrong side of the mouth,* to cry; *to get out of* (or *rise out of*) *the wrong* (or *right*) *side of the bed* (or *right side*), a happy augury (or the reverse) (1554).

Wrong-'un. Generic for anything bad: e.g. a spurious note, base coin, welsher, a horse intended to be pulled (q.v.), and so forth.

Wrought-shirt. See Historical Shirt.

Wry-not. *To shead wry-not,* to out-do the devil.

Wuggins (Oxford University). Worcester College; Botany-bay (q.v.).

Wusser. A canal boat.

Wuzzle. To jumble, muddle, mix.

X. *To take one X* (or *letter X*), to secure a violent prisoner: two constables firmly grasp the collar with one hand, the captive's arm being drawn down and the hand forced backwards over the holding arms; in this position the prisoner's arm is more easily broken than extricated.

X-leg. In pl., knock knees.

Xmas. Christmas: frequently pronounced eksmas. See Christmas.

-Y. (Manchester Grammar School). *Mathy,* mathematics; *chemmy,* chemistry; *gymmy,* gymnastics, etc.

Yack. A watch. *To church* (or *christen*) *a yack,* to change the case, or substitute a fictitious inscription, in order to prevent identification.

Yaff. To talk pertly: also *yaffle.* [Properly *yaff,* to bark or yelp.]

Yaffle. An armful. As verb, (1) to eat (*Halliwell*); (2) to snatch, to pilfer, to take illicitly; (3) see Yaff.

Yahoo. A generic reproach: spec. a rough, brutal, uncouth character. In America, a back-country lout, a greenhorn (*Bartlett*). [A name given by Swift in his *Gulliver's Travels* (1726) to a race of brutes, described as having human forms and vicious and degraded propensities. They were subject to the Houyhnhnms, or horses endowed with human reason.] As adj., boorish, loutish, uncouth.

Yallow. See Yellow.

Yam. Food; grub (q.v.). As verb, to eat.

Yank. 1. A Yankee (q.v.): an abbreviation universally applied by the Confederates to the soldiers of the Union armies (*Bartlett*). 2. In pl., leggings. As verb, (1) generic for quick, sharp, or jerking motion; to bustle, twitch, snatch, move quickly, work smartly; usually with *along, over, out,* etc.; as subs. (or *yanker*), a smart stroke, jerk, or twitch; *yanking,* active, pushing, thorough-going; *to yank the bun,* to take the cake (q.v.) (1818); (2) to chatter, scold, nag; to talk fast and incessantly. Hence *yankie,* a chatterbox, one who talks nineteen to the dozen.

Yankee (Yankey, Yanky). 1. A citizen of New England; 2. A native of the United States: also *Yankee-doodle* Also as adj., with derivatives such as *Yankeedom, Yankeefied, Yankeeism,* etc. [Of dubious and much-discussed derivation: see adj. sense.] *Yankeenation,* the United States. [*Century*: The word acquired wide currency during the war of the rebellion as a nickname or contemptuous epithet among the Confederates for the Union soldier, the confederates themselves being in like spirit dubbed Johnnies or Rebs by the Union soldiers: see Yank] (1765). 3. A glass of whisky sweetened with molasses. As adj. and adv., a generic intensive: spanking, excellent (1713).

Yanker. 1. A great falsehood: see Whopper (1822). 2. See Yank.

Yankie. 1. A sharp, forward, clever woman. 2. See Yank.

Yannam. See Pannam (of which *yannam* is probably a misprint).

Yap. 1. A yelp. 2. A cur, a tyke (q.v.). 3. A countryman. Also as verb, (1) to back, yelp; *yapster*, a dog (1798); (2) (back slang), to pay; whence *yappy*, over-generous, soft (q.v.), foolish: i.e. paying mad.

Yard. (1) Scotland Yard, headquarters of the London police, now located at New Scotland Yard; (2) (Durham School). In pl., the list of members originally of the First Game, but now of the Second Game—at football or cricket: formerly in the cricket season only a patch of ground thirty yards square was mowed; those who had the privilege of playing on this were said to be on the yards. *Under one's yard*, in one's power, subject to authority (1383). *To get yards*, to get a catch at football and be allowed a free kick, not running more than can be covered in three running strides; hence *to give yards*, to give such a catch; *to step yards*, to cover the distance in kicking off yards in three strides; *to knock down yards*, to prevent another from taking yards. [Orig. three yards.] See Knight.

Yarder (Harrow). Cricket played in the school-yard: in the summer term.

Yard-of-clay. A long clay pipe; a churchwarden (q.v.) (1859).

Yard-of-pumpwater. A tall thin man (or woman); cf. Rasher-of-wind.

Yark (Durham School). To cane.

Yarmouth-capon (or **bee**). A herring: see Glasgow magistrate (*B. E.*).

Yarmouth-coach. A sorry, low cart to ride on, drawn by one horse (*B. E.*).

Yarmouth-mittens. Bruised hands.

Yarn. A story, a tale: spec. an incredible, long, or marvellous narration spun out by a sailor. Hence as verb (or *to spin yarns*), to romance, draw the long bow; *a sailor's yarn*, a traveller's story (q.v.); *yarn-chopper* (or *slinger*), (1) a long prosy talker; and (2) a fictional journalist.

Yarum. Milk. *Poplars of yarum*, milk porridge (1567).

Yawney (or **Yawnups**). A stupid fellow: cf. Sawney. Also *yawney-box*, a donkey: see Neddy.

Yaw-sighted. Squinting.

Yaw-yaw. A Dutchman: any man who says *Yaw-yaw* for Yes (*Clark Russell*).

Yea-and-nay. Insipid, watery; e.g. a poor *yay-nay* sort of a person, a stupid, doltish block: one who can say but Yea or Nay to a question: see next entry (1780).

Yea-and-nay Man. A Quaker (*B. E.*).

Yeack. An imitative word to express the sound with which coachmen encourage their horses (?), unless it is another form of yerk (*Davies*) (1606).

Year's-mind (or **Year-mind**). A memorial, a mass, an anniversary: cf. Month's-mind.

Yellow. 1. Generic for jealousy, envy, melancholy: also *yellows* and *yellowness*: cf. Blue, Brown, Red, White, etc. (*B. E.*). Also in frequent proverbial phrase: e.g. *to wear yellow hose* (*breeches*, or *stockings*), to be jealous; *to anger the yellow hose*, to provoke jealousy; *to wear yellow stockings*, to be cuckolded: hence *yellow-hammer* (or *gloak*), (1) a cuckold, and (2) a jealous man or husband. [*Yellow stockings* (q.v.) were once, for a long period prior to the civil wars, a fashionable article of dress: the fashion is still preserved amongst Blues (q.v.) at Christ's Hospital.] 2. See Yellowstockings.

Yellow-Admiral. See Admiral.

Yellow-banded Robbers (The). The Prince Albert's Somersetshire Light Infantry, late the 13th Foot.

Yellow-belly. 1. A Lincolnshire fenman. 2. A half-caste: also yellow-boy (q.v.) or yellow-girl. 3. A Dutchman.

Yellow-boy. A gold coin: spec. a sovereign, 20s.: formerly a guinea: Fr., *jaunet*: see Rhino (1633). Also *yellow-hammer*, *yellow-mould*, and *yellow-stuff* (generic); *yellow-fever*, gold-fever: cf. Scarlet-fever (1633). 2. A mulatto, or dark quadroon: also *yellow-girl*.

Yellow-cover. A notice of dismissal from government employment: pron. *yaller kiver*. [From being usually enclosed in a yellow envelope.]

Yellow-covered. Cheap, sensational, trashy. Also *yellow-backs*, a generic term for cheap board-bound railway novels.

Yellow-dog. A strong term of contempt.

Yellow-fancy. A yellow silk

handkerchief spotted **white**: cf. Yellow-man.

Yellow-fever. 1. See Yellow-boy. 2. Drunkenness: see Screwed. [Part of the punishment of drunkards at Greenwich Hospital consisted in wearing a yellow coat.]

Yellow-hammer. See Yellow and Yellow-boy.

Yellow-jack. Yellow fever. [A yellow flag (or jack) being generally displayed at naval hospitals, or from vessels at quarantine, to denote the existence of contagious disease.]

Yellow-man. A yellow silk handkerchief: cf. Yellow-fancy.

Yellow-mould. See Yellow-boy.

Yellow-pine. A quadroon or light mulatto.

Yellow-plaster. Alabaster: freq. pronounced *yallow*-plaster.

Yellow-slipper. A very young calf.

Yellow-stuff. See Yellow-boy.

Yellow-stocking. 1. See Yellow. 2. A Blue- (q.v.) coat boy: also Yellows.

Yennep. A penny: 1d.: see Rhino. (1851).

Yeoman of the Mouth. 'An officer belonging to his Majestie's Pantry' (*B. E.*).

Yes siree, Bob! See Sirrah.

Yid (or **Yiddisher**) A Jew [Ger. *Judischer*]. Whence *Yiddish*, Jewish; and as subs., a dialect or jargon spoken by Jews mainly composed of corrupt Hebrew and German.

Yob. Boy (q.v.).

Yokel. A countryman, bumpkin, lout: in contempt. Hence as adj., (or *yokelish*), rustic.

Yokuff. A large box, chest, coffer.

Yolly (Winchester College). A post-chaise. [Yellow was a favourite colour for these vehicles.]

Yonker. See Younker.

Yoôp. A word expressive of a hiccuping or sobbing sound: onomatopœa [*Thackeray*].

York. *As like as York is to foul Sutton*, as dissimilar as may be (1544). See Yorkshire.

Yorker. A ball finding pitch very close to the bat. Hence as verb, to bowl yorkers.

Yorkshire. It would appear that formerly Yorkshire was more proverbial for dulness and clownishness than, as in modern phrase, for the boot to be on the other leg: e.g. to *come* (or *put*) *Yorkshire over* (or *to Yorkshire one*), to cheat, take a person in, to prove too wide-awake for him. Also *Yorkshire-bite*, a specially 'cute piece of overreaching, entrapping one into a profitless bargain. The monkey who ate the oyster and returned the shell to each litigant affords a good example. *Confident as a Yorkshire carrier*, cocksure; *Yorkshire compliment*, a gift useless to the giver and not wanted by the receiver: also North-country compliment; *Yorkshire estate*, money in prospect, a castle in the air (q.v.): e.g. When I come into my *Yorkshire estates*, When I have the means; *Yorkshire reckoning*, a reckoning where each one pays his share; *Yorkshire-tyke*, a Yorkshire manner of man (*B. E.*); *Yorkshire-hog*, a fat wether.

Yorkshire-hunters (The). A regiment formed by the gentlemen of Yorkshire during the Civil War.

You. *You're another*, a *tu quoque*: i.e. *another* liar, fool, thief—any imaginable term of abuse (1534).

You Bet. You may depend on it! to be sure! certainly! the most positive of affirmations: also *you bet* your boots, life, bottom dollar, and so on. [Originally a Californian phrase: it has also been given as a name in the form of Ubet to a town in the Canadian North-west] (1870).

Young. Found in various canting combinations: Thus, *Young England*, a set of young aristocrats who tried to revive the courtly manners of the Chesterfield school: they wore white waistcoats, patronised the pet poor, looked down upon shopkeepers, and were imitators of the period of Louis XIV.: Disraeli has immortalised their ways and manners. *Young Germany*, a literary school headed by Heinrich Heine [*Hi-ny*], whose aim was to liberate politics, religion, and manners from the old conventional trammels. *Young Ireland*, followers of Daniel O'Connell in politics, but wholly opposed to his abstention from war and insurrection in vindication of their country's rights. *Young Italy*, certain Italian refugees, who associated themselves with the French republican party, called the *Carbonnerie Democratique*: the society was first organised at Marseilles by Mazzini, and its chief object was to diffuse republican principles (*Brewer*).

Young Buffs (The). The first battalion East Surrey Regiment, late the 31st Foot. [At Dettingen, George II., through the similarity of the facings, mistook it for the 3rd Foot or (Old) Buffs.]

Young Eyes (The). The Seventh (The Queen's Own) Hussars.

Young Hopeful. A half jocular, half affectionate address.

Young Man. A sweetheart, lover (1585).

Youngster (Younker, Younkerkin, etc). 1. A lad, a young person: always more or less familiar, contemptuous, or colloquial. Also, 2. a novice, an inexperienced youth, and (nautical) a raw hand; in modern naval usage, a junior officer. Hence *to make a younker of one*, to gull, cheat, deceive (for an innocent). (1502).

Young Thing. An immature girl: in mild contempt or pity: e.g. She's but a young thing (1360).

Your Nibs. See Nibs and Watch.

Yours Truly. A jocular mode of reference to oneself: cf. Nibs and Watch.

You-'uns. You: cf. Wee-'uns.

Yoxter. A convict returned from transportation before his time was up.

Yum-yum. First-rate, excellent.

Zany. (1) Orig. a buffoon's foil: his office consisted in making awkward and ludicrous attempts to mimic the professional jester or clown. Hence (2) a mimic; and (3) an attendant. As verb, to play the fool, to mimic, to dance attendance (*B. E.*); whence also such derivatives as Zanyism: cf. Sawney (1567).

Zebra. A prison dress: because striped.

Zedland. The western counties of England: where, *dialectically*, S is pronounced as Z. Also Izzardland, and (literary) the Unnecessarians, Western folk.

Zemmies-haw. An exclamation of surprise.

Ziff. A young thief: see Thief.

Zoo. The Zoological Gardens, London: cf. Pops, Hops, etc.

Zoty. A fool.

Zu-zu. In pl., the Zouave contingent in the Union Army during the Civil War, 1860-65.

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